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'ACCOMMODATING DELIMITATION'

Census may be held in 2026: Union Minister

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Death registration data to improve voter rolls

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Has Pahalgam attack crossed a red line?

Discussion on military response to Pakistan

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ON A ROLL

Clinical MI crushes RR, goes to the top

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NEARBY

Mahasabha to seek separate religion code

BENGALURU
Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are contesting the population data in the 2015 Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report, are set to seek a separate religion code for the community in the national Census. » PAGE 6

Murder accused hacked to death

MANGALURU
A 30-year-old man, who was the main accused in a murder in Surathkal in 2022, was hacked to death at Bajpe in Mangaluru on Thursday night. The police have set up checkposts and intensified patrolling. » PAGE 9

METROPLUS » PAGE 5

India gets U.S. support in fight against terror

America stands 'in solidarity' with India and supports its 'right to defend itself', says Hegseth; Rajnath points out that Pakistan has a 'history' of supporting and training terrorist organisations

Dinakar Peri
Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

The U.S. stands "in solidarity" with India and supports its "right to defend itself", Secretary of Defence Pete Hegseth said in a conversation with Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, while the latter said Pakistan had a "history" of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations, the first direct reference to Pakistan by a senior Minister in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack.

The call between the Defence Ministers came after U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio spoke to both External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar and Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, calling on India and Pakistan to "work together" to de-escalate tensions.

Push for peace

Two top U.S. officials have spoken to Indian Ministers

Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth said the U.S. stands in solidarity with India and supports its right to defend itself. He reiterated the strong support of the U.S. government in India's fight against terrorism
- **Rajnath Singh's office**

Secretary of State Marco Rubio reaffirmed the U.S.'s commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism and urged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions
- **U.S. State Department**

Naval exercises

Meanwhile, the Indian Navy and the Pakistan Navy began simultaneous exercises in the Arabian Sea with both issuing 'Nav Area' warnings amid speculation of punitive strikes by the Indian military and a tense situation between the two countries. On the Line of Control (LoC), there was no let-up in ceasefire violations which have been going on for a week now.

"Secretary Hegseth said the U.S. stands in solidarity with India and supports India's right to defend itself. He reiterated the strong support of the U.S. government in India's fight against terrorism," Mr. Singh's office said in a post on social media 'X'.

"During the conversation, Mr. Singh said that Pakistan has a history of supporting, training and funding terrorist organisations. He further said that it is important for the global community to explicitly and unequivocally condemn and call out such heinous acts of terrorism," the post added.

"[I] Discussed the Pahalgam terrorist attack with U.S. Secretary of State Rubio," Mr. Jaishankar wrote on his X account. "Its perpetrators, backers and planners must be brought to justice," he added.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

U.S. gains access to Ukraine's minerals

Associated Press
WASHINGTON

The U.S. and Ukraine on Wednesday signed an agreement granting American access to Ukraine's vast mineral resources, finalising a deal months in the making that could enable continued military aid to Kyiv. The development comes amid concerns that President Donald Trump might scale back support in ongoing peace negotiations with Russia.

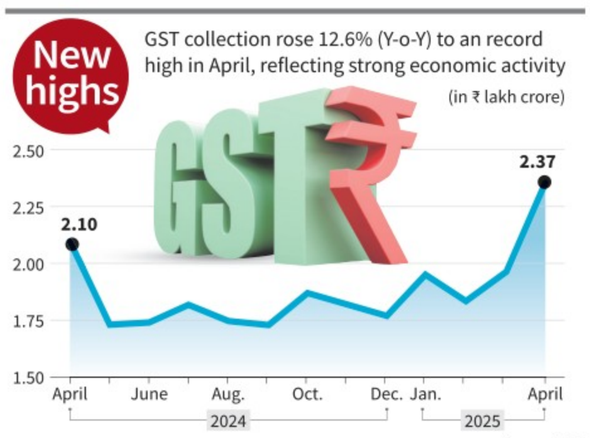
The two sides offered only barebone details about the structure of the deal, which they called the United States-Ukraine Reinvestment Fund. But it is expected to give the U.S. access to Ukraine's valuable rare earth minerals while providing Kyiv a measure of assurance about continued American support in its grinding war with Russia.

'Commitment to peace'

"This agreement signals clearly to Russia that the Trump administration is committed to a peace process centred on a free, sovereign, and prosperous Ukraine over the long term," Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

April GST mop-up hits all-time high at ₹2.37 lakh crore



Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Goods and Services Tax collection rose 12.6% year-on-year to an all-time high of about ₹2.37 lakh crore in April, reflecting strong economic activity and March-end reconciliation of books by businesses.

The GST mop-up was ₹2.10 lakh crore in April 2024 – the second highest ever since GST was rolled out on July 1, 2017. In March 2025, the collection was ₹1.96 lakh crore.

As per the government data released on Thursday, GST revenue from domestic transactions rose 10.7% to about ₹1.9 lakh crore, while revenue from imported goods was up 20.8% to ₹46,913 crore.

Refunds issuance rose 48.3% to ₹27,341 crore during April. After adjusting refunds, net GST collection rose 9.1% to over ₹2.09 lakh crore in April.

Deloitte India Partner M.S. Mani said the high net GST collections indicates a strong economic performance in the last month of the previous fiscal year.

The GST collections during the month have been uniformly high in all the major producing/consuming States and have been in the range of 11% to 16%.

Central GST collection from domestic transactions stood at ₹48,634 crore in April, while state GST mop-up was ₹59,372 crore. Integrated GST and cess collection were ₹69,504 crore and ₹12,293 crore, respectively, from domestic transactions.

Modi champions 'orange economy' at WAVES

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Appealing to global companies to create content in India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday said that the strength of Indian culture was to respect the cultures of other countries.

"This is the right time for 'create in India, create for the world'. Global content will be respected here. I want to give confidence to everyone from outside that when you come here, you will get connected to India very naturally. India is becoming an orange economy. The Parsis, the Jews came here and became a part of our country. The strength of our culture is to respect the cultures of the other countries," Mr. Modi said, speaking at the inauguration of the WAVES summit at Mumbai's Jio World Centre.

The 'orange economy', also known as the creative economy, refers to economic activities that leverage creativity, culture, and intellectual property to generate wealth and jobs.

The PM hailed Indian content creators, even as he stressed the importance of responsible creativity. "Today, foreign consumers are consuming Indian entertainment with subtitles. Screen size is becoming smaller, but the consumption is growing, the message is becoming bigger. In this time of a booming orange economy, I want to tell all you content creators, you are bringing a new wave to India's creativity. Our government is with you in your efforts," he said. "Extra efforts need to be taken to take care of human sensitivities and sensibilities. We want to enrich humans and not turn them into robots," he said.

PM's pitch: Narendra Modi addressing the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit 2025 in Mumbai on Thursday. PMO

Creative, cultural waves

The WAVES, or World Audio Visual and Entertainment Summit, has attracted major names from the media and entertainment industry from over 90 countries, including superstar actor Rajinikanth and Reliance Industries CEO and MD Mukesh Ambani, who both paid respects to the victims of the recent terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir.

Lauding the Prime Minister, the two said the country stood with him.

"Many said, the government will postpone this event as it is about entertainment. But I was sure that this event will happen. I am confident about our Prime Minister. He is a fighter. My hearty congratulations to the government and to the media industry. Extending my support always. Thank you for the opportunity," Mr. Rajinikanth said.

"WAVES highlights India's creative strength on the global platform. WAVES is not just an acronym, it is a wave of culture, creativity and universal connectivity," said Mr. Modi, announcing that India will soon launch the WAVES Awards.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

SSLC examination-1 results to be announced today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The results of the first SSLC examination will be announced on Friday, by the Karnataka State Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB).

Students can check their results on https://karresults.nic.in after 12.30 p.m.

Held in 2,818 centres

The first examination was held from March 21 to April 4 across 2,818 examination centres in the State.

A total of 8,96,447 students – 4,61,563 boys and 4,34,884 girls – from 15,881 high schools had enrolled for the examinations.

The KSEAB had conducted the examinations under the surveillance of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered CCTV cameras to identify any malpractices or irregularities in the exam centres.

Four killed, seven injured in massive fire in Ajmer hotel

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Four persons, one a four-year-old child, were killed and seven injured in a massive fire which broke out in a hotel in a congested locality at Ajmer in Rajasthan on Thursday. Some of the guests in the five-storey hotel jumped out of the windows in a bid to save their lives.

The fire broke out on the ground floor of Hotel Naaz in the Diggi Bazaar area, near the historic Ajmer Sharif Dargah, reportedly because of a short circuit in an air conditioner unit.

While the fire engulfed the entire building in a short time, the cramped lanes made access difficult for firefighters and hampered the rescue operation. Two men, a woman and a child died of injuries. The condition of four of the injured persons was stated to be critical.

Crisis response: Rescue operation is underway after fire broke out at a hotel in Ajmer on Thursday. ANI

Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College Principal Anil Samaria said the patients undergoing treatment had 50% to 90% burns.

The fire could be extinguished after about three hours and the search operation was called off in the afternoon after evacuating people from the hotel.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 12

Driver killed after tree falls on auto during rain

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old autorickshaw driver died after a tree fell on his moving vehicle on Thursday. The incident occurred around 7.30 p.m. near a bus shelter on Kathriguppe Main Road in Banashankari in South Bengaluru.

The victim has been identified as Mahesh, a resident of Ittamadu. According to preliminary reports from the Bengaluru City Police, Mahesh was driving past the 43A bus stop when the tree suddenly came crashing down, crushing his vehicle, and leaving him trapped inside.

Emergency services were immediately alerted, but Mahesh succumbed to his injuries at the scene. A case of unnatural death has been registered, and his family has filed an official complaint with the local police.

The autorickshaw that was crushed after a tree fell on it in Bengaluru on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Officials from the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) said that the Bangalore Metropolitan Task Force (BMTF) was deployed to the location shortly after the incident was reported.

A senior BBMP official told *The Hindu*: "We are coordinating with all departments to assess the damage and will provide compensation to the bereaved family as per established guidelines."

The city experienced a spell of moderate rainfall accompanied by lightning and gusty winds, with wind speeds reaching up to 17 knots. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted that Bengaluru will continue to receive light to moderate rainfall through May 3. In some parts of the city, particularly Banashankari, residents were taken by surprise as hailstorms accompanied the downpour.

In a separate case, a large tree fell on a parked car near a cafe in Koramangala. Fortunately, no one was inside the vehicle at the time, and there were no reported injuries, although the car sustained significant damage.

Flooding

Heavy rain also led to flooding in several areas of southern Bengaluru, with underpasses and arterial roads becoming difficult to navigate. Inundation was severe near the Yelachenahalli metro station, causing traffic disruptions. BBMP officials added that teams were dispatched to clear blocked drains and remove fallen trees as part of emergency response operations.

According to the data shared by the BBMP, a total of 10 cases of tree-fall were reported on Thursday.

Strong fundamentals and a sharp tactical mind make Tavish a name to watch out for

With continued exposure to high-level competition, the 15-year-old is working hard towards breaking into the top 100 of the world junior rankings

Kamesh Srinivasan

Indian tennis has many juniors striving hard to make a mark and forge their path towards becoming professionals.

While there is no dearth of effort from most, some stand out to the discerning eye, like Tavish Pahwa, who wound up 2024 as the country's No. 1 in both the under-16 and under-14 sections.

The best evaluation of such a talent is done by a coach of considerable calibre, like Australian Todd Clark, who has been associated with Indian tennis for about 15 years.

Having worked with Tavish for about a year and a half, he believes the 15-year-old will soon be "a name to watch" on the global stage.

"Athletically gifted, Tavish has excellent movement, speed and agility on the court. His ability to cover all areas of the court, paired with a sharp tactical mind, sets him apart from his peers," Todd explained.

"He reads the game exceptionally well, often anticipating his opponent's moves and devising effective strategies to counter them. His composure and court awareness are rare qualities for someone of his age."

Further analysing the youngster, Todd spoke highly about his technical and mental capabilities.

"Tavish's game is built on strong fundamentals. While all aspects of his game are clean, focused work is ongoing to refine his serve and return to turn them into defining weapons," he said.

Tavish is a fierce competitor and enjoys being in the thick of battle, against quality opponents who push him hard to bring out his best.

"There has been a marked improvement in his emotional control and discipline, on and off the court. With continued exposure to high-level competition, his ability to make sound decisions under pressure will only improve," Todd said.

The coach is understandably proud that Tavish has been able to back his case by finishing the year as No. 1 in both under-14 and under-16 in 2024.

"Apart from finishing last year as No. 1 in the country in both under-14 and under-16, Tavish also won the National under-16 title. He secured his first ITF singles title in Colombo. These milestones mark Tavish as one of the country's most promising young talents," he said.

Tavish, who has slipped to No. 3 in the country in the under-16 rankings, recently won all his matches against the Top 5 seeds in the selection trials for the Junior Davis Cup team.

Rather than trying to play more tournaments and stay as No. 1, Tavish and his family decided to go to Europe in March to check out five of the world's best tennis centres, including Rafael Nadal Academy in Spain, Patrik Mourtoglou centre in France, and the Piatti Centre in Italy.

Todd believes that Tavish needs to set himself up in Europe to gain the required exposure whenever he enters the professional grind.

European pit stop

"Like many of India's top talents before him, Tavish must look beyond domestic borders. Training in Europe would provide the intensive, high-level environment essential for his growth," Todd pointed out.

"Players like Sumit Nagal, Sasikumar Mukund and Manas Dhamne have all benefited from similar pathways. Recently, Maaya Rajeshwaran made the move to Rafael Nadal Academy to further her development."

Tavish got a taste of Europe last year as part of the Asian under-14 team, an experience Todd believes gave him "a valuable benchmark" for assessing his current level and identifying areas that need refinement.

Tavish's parents Seema and Gaurav, who have been diligently shaping the boy's career, are grateful for the timely support, especially from the Shiv Nadar School in Faridabad, where he is enrolled.

Strong support system

"The support of Tavish's school has been a game-changer. The school has stood by him as a pillar of strength, helping Tavish to pursue his sporting goals without compromising on his academics. We are also deeply grateful to Shiv Nadar Foundation and HCL Tech for their generous financial support that has helped his career in so many different ways, including the visit to Europe to find a suitable academy," said Seema.

The mother was happy that Tavish could visit five of the best coaching centres in Europe, with appointments facilitated by the IMG, the leading sports management company.

"Coaches at these academies expressed keen interest in working with Tavish and indicated the possibility of offering scholarships," said Seema.

Expensive affair

While Tavish is getting ready to represent the country in the Junior Davis Cup Asia-Oceania event in Kazakhstan, apart from representing Haryana in the Khelo India Games, the family is working hard to gather the financial support to meet the expenses of keeping him in one of the prestigious academies in Europe.

"There is no dearth of talent in India. However, one of the biggest challenges remains funding. The high cost of international travel, coaching, and equipment often limits opportunities for young athletes.

"Without adequate financial support, even the most talented prospects face significant hurdles in reaching their potential," stressed Todd.

Tavish's goal is to be in the top 100 of the world junior rankings by next year and get into the junior Grand Slams.

THE GIST

- Tavish finished 2024 as India's No. 1 in both the under-14 and 16 categories
- He also won the National under-16 title and later clinched his maiden ITF singles crown in Colombo
- Coach Todd has called for Tavish to set himself up in Europe to gain the required exposure

Man, neighbour killed in fire triggered by LPG cylinder leak; son booked for negligence

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 50-year-old man and his neighbour were killed and three people were injured in the fire accident sparked by a gas leak on April 28 at the former's residence in Adakamaranahalli, the police said on Thursday. The Madanayakanahalli police have registered an FIR against an 18-year-old student, son of one of the victims, for allegedly triggering the LPG cylinder leak.

The deceased have been identified as Nagaraju Gowda, 50, father of the accused and Srinivasa, 50, a neighbour who came to help after hearing screams. Abhishek Gowda, son of Nagaraju, who also sustained serious burn injuries, has been booked for negligence.

According to the police, Nagaraju, a native of Ballari and working in a private pharma company, was living in the Adakamaranahalli house, a rented accomodation, with his wife and two children for the last two years. The accident occurred when Abhishek tried to replace the cylinder and the gas got leaked. Nagaraju, as part of his routine, was lighting lamp in front of the god's portrait and the cylinder caught fire. It spread rapidly as the house was small and engulfed the whole space.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, Arjun Singh V Sirohi S/O, Vijender Singh Sirohi R/o 604, G P Aditya, Jakkasandra Ext,# 148,149,150, Shb Co-op Society Ltd,41 Sreeniva, Koramangala, B'luru 560034 have changed my name to Arjun Singh Sirohi.

Biker killed, another injured in accident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 32-year-old motorcycle rider was killed and another was injured in a road accident near M.S. Ramaiah Hospital at Mathikere on Wednesday.

The deceased, David, a native of Tamil Nadu, was working at a laundry unit in Mutyalanagar and was returning home after work.

According to the police, David's bike collided with another bike, and both sustained injuries. Though rushed to the hospital, David succumbed to his injuries later. The other biker is being treated.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that **Sri PRAVEEN KUMAR,** S/o Late K.Muralidharan, residing at No.14, Narasimhaiah Colony, R.M.V. II Stage, Sanjayanagar, Bengaluru-560094, has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 18.10.1968, registered as **Document No.2191/1968-69** of Book-I and Original Sale Deed dated 16.07.1987, registered as **Document No.2124/1987-88** of Book-I, pertaining to **Site No.16**, Property No.224/10-94/16, E-Pid No.4658383255, carved out of Old Sy.No.10, Re-Sy.No.94 of 4th Block, situated at Nagasandra Village, Yeshwanthapura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, and a police complaint is filed before Bengaluru City Police Unit and a Lost Report bearing **No.1579572/2025** dated 24.04.2025 has been obtained to that effect.
Finder may return the Original Sale Deeds pertaining to the aforesaid site to the undersigned. If any person/institution has any claim or interest of any nature pertaining to aforesaid property, the said claims along-with supporting documents shall be filed within **15 days** from the date of publication of this Notice before the undersigned at the address mentioned below. Any claims raised thereafter shall not be entertained or binding.

P.MANJUNATH, ADVOCATE
HM LEGAL, Office at No.24/10, First Floor, Haudin Road, Ulsoor, Bengaluru – 560 042, Mobile No: 99450 36969 Ph : 080 – 48145789

NAVODAYA VIDYALAYA SAMITI
(An Autonomous Organization under Ministry of Education, GOI, Department of School Education & Literacy)
B-15, Sector-62, Institutional Area, Noida,
G.B. Nagar, Uttar Pradesh- 201309

NOTICE FOR CANDIDATES – RECRUITMENT DRIVE 2024 (Non-Teaching Posts)

All candidates appearing for the Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti **Recruitment Exam 2024 (Non-Teaching Posts)** are hereby informed that the **link/URL to view the exam city** has been made available on the official website of the Samiti.

Candidates are advised to visit the **Recruitment-Exam/Interview/Doc Verification/Skill Test Notice** section on the Samiti's website to access the link and obtain necessary details regarding their exam city.

For further official updates and notifications, candidates should regularly visit **www.navodaya.gov.in**.

Issued by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti

THE HINDU GROUP

DAY 42

*SPORTSTAR
INDIAN
POSTER
LEAGUE

Play now & start winning!

1. What eyewear do swimmers wear to protect their eyes from chlorine and see clearly underwater?
2. Which country did the first athlete to win eight gold medals at a single Games represent at the 2008 Beijing Olympics?
3. With 28 Olympic medals, including a record 23 golds, this swimmer is the most decorated athlete in history. Who is he?

*T&C apply.

Scan QR code or visit **newsth.live/SSIPLPA** to take the quiz. Get all three answers right and unlock a legendary Sportstar poster. **Top 3 winners* every day win gift vouchers.**

Yesterday's poster: Glenn McGrath

Yesterday's Winners:
1. Sumanta Choudhury, Pune | 2. Sundip Sengupta, Kolkatta | 3. Tula Ram, Delhi

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD

(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Special Land Acquisition Officer-2, No. 14/3, 1st Floor, Aravinda Bhavana, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru-560001

No.: KIADB/KRIDE/LAQ/72/2025-26 Date: 21.04.2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

(As per Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act 1966 Sec 28(2))

The Government has issued a preliminary notification under Section 28(1) of the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act, 1966, vide Notification No.: CCI 44 SPQ 2025 dated 29-03-2025 in the Karnataka Gazette dated **02-04-2025,** for the acquisition of the following Scheduled Properties within the jurisdiction of the Bruhat Bengaluru Municipal Corporation/Grama Panchayat for the purpose of "Bangalore Sub-Urban Railway Project". Notice under Section 28(2) is hereby issued to the interested parties/Khatedars/account holders of the properties mentioned below. However, since some of the property owners have refused to receive the notice and the exact address of some of the property owners is not known, the notices cannot be served. Therefore, in order to provide an opportunity to the property owners/interested parties to file objections, a hearing has been scheduled at the office of Special KIADB (KRIDE)14/3, 1st Floor, Land Acquisition Officer-2, Aravinda Bhavan, Nrupatunga Road, Bangalore-560001 **on 05.05.2025 at 11:00 AM.** On the said date, if the property owners/interested parties have any objections to the said land acquisition process, they may appear in person or through their authorised representatives and file objections before the following officers. Objections received after this period will not be considered. If they fail to appear for the hearing or do not submit a written objection, it will be assumed that they have no objection to the land acquisition process and further action will be taken as per law. After the notification under Section 28(1) is issued, the said properties cannot be purchased, leased, have possession released, hypothecated, transferred, mortgaged, assigned, exchanged or otherwise dealt with, and no construction or other improvement works can be carried out without the prior permission of the competent authority. If any such activities are undertaken, those parts will be disregarded while assessing compensation under Section 30 of the Karnataka Industrial Area Development Act, 1966, and action will be initiated as per law.

Scheduled Properties

Sr. No.	Identity No.	Name of the Khatedars	LA/CTS/ Survey No.	Total area of the property	Land Acquisition Area Sq.Mts
Enquiry Date: 05.05.2025 Enquiry Time : 11.00 onwards					
Village : Jalahalli Hobli : Yashawanthapura Taluku : Bengaluru North District Bengaluru Urban					
1	C4/38/200-300/Yalahanka/01	1.Lakshmamma W/o Late Krishnappa, 2.K.Chandrashekar S/o Late Krishnappa, 3. K.Sreenivas S/o Late Krishnappa	14/8	9762.90	282.11
2	C4/38/250-500/Yalahanka/01	1. Munishami Urf Channabbaiah, 2. Shyamana Muniyallappa, 3. Ganesh S/o Munishamappa, 4. Mangamma W/o Pillappa, 5. Muneera D/o Gullappa, 6. Krishna S/o Gullappa, 7. Chinnamma W/o Gullappa, 8.R. Venkataraman S/o R. Reddappa, 9.Parvathamma W/o B.Krishnaiah 10.R.Narasimhaiah S/o R.Reddappa. 11. R. Krishna S/o R.Reddappa	23/3	9712.32	911.51
3	C4/38/250-500/Yalahanka/02	1.M.Lakshminarayana S/o Late Muniraju, 2.M.Rangaswama S/o Late Muniraju, 3.M.Jayarama S/o Late Muniraju, 4.M.Ravi S/o Late Muniraju. 5.Ramu S/o Late Rangaiah	23/4	7183.07	960.72
4	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/01	Kondayya S/o Thangaraju	117/2A	2428.08	14.68
5	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/02	Chandrappa S/o Narayanaswamappa	117/2A		18.51
6	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/03	Neelkantha Rao S/o Sethurao	117/2A	2428.08	35.27
7	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/04	G. Venkatesh S/o Ganeshappa	117/2A		38.54
8	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/05	Ramadevi.M.G W/o Nagarajaiah	117/2A		43.88
9	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/06	J. Shanthi W/o Murugan	117/2A		7.63
10	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/07	J. Shanthi W/o Murugan	117/2A		0.71
11	C4/R/36/60700/Yalahanka/08	Road	117/2A		296.27
12	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/01	Kondayya S/o Thangaraju	118/1	3439.78	5.90
13	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/02	Chikkavenkataiah S/o Venkatashetty	118/2	4552.65	31.52
14	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/03	Bhagwanti Mehta S/o Prakash Mehta			12.00
15	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/04	Sharada N W/o Ramesh			50.35
16	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/05	Road			320.44
17	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/06	Vidya C and Vinaya C			397.97
18	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/07	Lalithamma Alias Uma S/o Chandrasekhar			1.26
19	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/08	K. Nagaraja S/o Kannappa			11.33
20	C4/R/36/0-800/Yalahanka/09	J.D. Jayaram S/o Doddchennegowda	18/1	3439.78	43.65
21	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/10	Arun Kumar B.L	118/2	4552.65	87.69
22	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/11	Ameer Pasha S/o.Mahamadrihasaba			134.75
23	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/12	Jaharabhanu			18.67
24	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/13	Neelamma W/o Y.N.Aswath			41.74
25	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/14	Lakshmamma W/o Narayanappa			21.88
26	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/15	N. Ravindra S/o Narayanshetty			0.41
27	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/16	Road			115.55
28	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/17	Tarakumari L.S			53.53
29	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/18	H. Shivanna S/o Late Honnappa			39.03
30	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/19	Hanumantharayappa S/o Late, Nrarasimhappa			111.50
31	C4/R/36/60-800/Yalahanka/20	Devimanju D/o Ramanjappa			38.78
32	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/21	Sharadamma W/o Subbarayappa.C			38.06
33	C4/R/36/60800/Yalahanka/22	Kanthamma D/o Venkatachalayyah			23.80
34	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/01	Mohammad Qadir	119/1	1315.21	5.00
35	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/02	YG Ramanjaneya	119/2		37.46
36	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/03	Road			64.65
37	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/04	V Shrinivas S/o Venkatappa			138.57
38	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/01	Kharabu	120/1	7992.43	0.28
39	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/02				206.23
40	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/03	Rajasekhar S and Savithramma	120/2	20335.17	196.50
41	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/04	Road			115.47
42	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/05	Rajasekhar S and Savithramma	120/1	7992.43	228.34
43	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/06	Ramakrishna Raju alias Raju	120/2	20335.17	98.84
44	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/07	Saraswathamma W/o G. Narayana Swamy			88.23
45	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/08	Saraswathamma W/o Sriramulu			177.27
46	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/09	Road			49.58
47	C4/R/36/800950/ Yalahanka/10	1.Ramachandrappa S/o M.Venkataramaiah, 2.M. Chinnaraju S/o M.Venkataramaiah, 3.M. Ramakrishnappa S/o M.Venkataramaiah			59.77
48	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/11	B.Kesava			168.48
49	C4/R/36/800950/Yalahanka/12	Kharabu			162.76
50	C4/R/36/500600/Yalahanka/01	1.Karnataka Housing Board, 2.Mohammed Fayaz S/o Late Abdul Hili, 3.Muhammad Anwar S/o Late Abdul Hili, 4. Nazir S/o Abdul Hafeez, 5.Ajazpasha S/o Abdul Hafeez 6.Sahera D/o Abdul Hafeez, 7. Shahnaz D/o Abdul Wajeed, 8.Mohammed Adeel S/o Abdul Wajeed, 9. Ayesha Khanum D/o Abdul Wajeed, 10.Mohammed Siddique S/o Abdulwazeed, 11. Mohammad Ali S/o Abdul Wajeed, 12. Mohammad Umar S/o Abdul Wazeed, 13. Fandataj D/o Abdul Wajid, 14. Mohammad Taushik Akram S/o Abdul Wajeed, 15. Mohammad Wasimakram S/o Abdul Wajeed, 16. Rafatunnisa D/o Abdul Wajeed, 17. Tabasum Sulthana D/o Abdul Wajeed, 18. Samira Sulthana D/o Abdul Wajeed, 19. Taranam Ara D/o Abdul Wazeed, 20. Ashriasultana D/o Abdul Wazeed	137/1	2554.25	229.83
51	C4/R/36/500600/Yalahanka/02	Rudrappa S/o Channabasappa	137/2	2554.25	303.51
52	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/01	1.Ramachandrappa S/o M. Venkataramaiah, 2.M. Chinnaraj S/o.M. Venkataramaiah, 3. M. Rama Krishnappa S/o M.Venkataramaiah	Gramathana	-	1366.50
53	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/02	Y.V. Krishnamurthy	Gramathana	-	74.49
54	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/03	Road	Gramathana		211.16
55	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/01	Lane			72.93
56	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/02				32.86
57	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/03				15.68
58	C4/R/36/800850/Yalahanka/04				59.97
Village: Kaggadasapura Hobli: Marathahalli Taluk: Bengaluru East					
59	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/1	Krishna Reddy	210/2	2428.08	47.96
60	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/2	Ganesh Reddy	210/3	2529.25	169.33
61	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/3	Ganesh Reddy	210/4	809.36	56.63
62	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/4	Krishna Reddy			23.7
63	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/5	Prabhakar Reddy			514.88
64	C4/20/525/-625/Kaggadasapura/6	Padma			149.64
Village: Doddanekkundi Hobli: Marathahalli Taluk: Bengaluru East					
65	C4/18/575-650/Doddanekundi/1	Cherukuri Sivakeshav S/o Seshaiah	206/1	13050.93	80.13
66	C4/18/575-650/Doddanekundi/2	Kalavakuri Sumanth S/ Kalavakuri Srinivas	206/1		111.48
67	C4/18/575-650/Doddanekundi/3	N Venkatesh S/o N V Narayan Reddy	206/1		673.9
68	C4/18/575-650/Doddanekundi/4	Kantamma	206/1		73.29
69	C4/18/435-600/Doddanekundi/1	G. Shailaja W/o Late N. R. Sudhakara, Sonam Reddy Sudhakara S/o Late N.R. Sudhakara	25/1	7688.92	2655.50
70	C4/18/435-600/Doddanekundi/2	N.A. Krishnareddy S/o Late Venkataswamy Reddy Bhu.Pa	25/2	7385.41	104.69
71	C4/18/435-600/Doddanekundi/3	N. Prakash S/o Late Narayana Reddy	25/4	3743.29	915.63
72	C4/18/325-375/Doddanekundi/1	N. K. Bhupendra	24/6	8902.96	656.04 (Kha) 56.04 600.00

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A ‘non-contact’ wearable that uses skin flux to monitor health

The device is just about the size of a smartphone face and has demonstrated unique capabilities to measure the flux of water vapour, volatile organic compounds and carbon dioxide at various locations on the body; according to researchers, it is unique because the sensors don’t contact skin

Ramya Kannan

Future in the palm: Professor John A. Rogers holding up the small wearable medical device. The device can be mounted anywhere on body and track outward flux and also inward flux at the same time. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

William Blake could have scarcely estimated just the expanse that a palm full can contain, when he said ‘hold infinity in the palm of your hand’, but science today can give him a fair estimate.

Smaller and smaller wearable devices, with the surface area the extent of a mere watch dial, have come to play, measuring all kinds of health parameters on the go - heart rate, blood oxygen, even continuous blood glucose levels. Here’s yet another wearable, but one with a difference. Researchers have zeroed in on a wearable that can study the streams of molecular substances that pass through the skin, as a measure of studying the health status of individuals.

What is different is that this wearable is ‘non-contact’ relying on an enclosed chamber immediately adjacent to the skin’s surface to do its job.

A collaboration of American and South Korean experts from the domains of materials sciences, dermatology, engineering, bio-medics and chemistry worked to produce a small device, just about the size of a smartphone face, that has demonstrated unique capabilities to measure the flux of water vapour, volatile organic compounds and carbon dioxide at various locations on the body, to examine not just skin health but general health too. The particular use has been to study wound healing properties in diabetes and has the additional advantage of non contact operation, therefore potential damage to fragile tissues can be avoided.

These low-cost devices can just be adhered to the surface of the skin, and measure these properties continuously, without a physician having to be at call. It can monitor hazardous chemicals that enter the human body via the skin

Catch it early, cost-effectively

John A. Rogers who is the Lewis Simpson and Kimberly Querry Professor of Material Sciences and Engineering, Biomedical Engineering, and Neurological Surgery at the Northwestern University, U.S. and is steering the research says his team has been working on wearable technologies for about two decades now. “With the COVID pandemic, there began a heightened awareness of the value of technologies that could continuously monitor health status; catch very early signs of disease or infection or health complications, in remote and, cost-effective ways. We have introduced a number of skin interface devices for measuring vital signs like electrocardiograms, blood oxygenation, body temperature.” The wearable in question however is unique, he explains. “It is unique in the sense that the sensors don’t contact the skin. They’re actually separated from the skin, and instead of directly measuring underlying physiological processes – cardiac cycles, lung function, for example, we’re measuring, properties of the skin itself and measuring species that emerge from the body through the skin to the surrounding environment. And likewise, we are also measuring chemical species that can move from the environment into the body through the skin.”

He adds this is something that people haven’t looked at before, and experiments have proved that there’s a lot of interesting information that emerges, related to wound healing but also basic health. The authors write up the results in a recent paper published in *Nature* journal. This technology can provide unique insights for clinical decision-makers managing conditions such as dermatological diseases and dermal wounds, but who are also interested in understanding the underlying pathophysiologies better. It can also monitor hazardous chemicals that enter the human body via the skin, making it a viable option to monitor the health of persons working in hazardous industries and zones.

How the skin works

He continues to explain: The skin is a layered substance with a pretty good impermeable water barrier on the very surface – called the stratum corneum. Underneath that is the epidermis and then the dermis. Those tissues are fairly permeable to water. But the stratum corneum is a very thin layer of dead cells, and serves as a barrier. If that barrier did not exist, you’d have tonnes of water evaporating and water loss just coming out through all surfaces of the body. So, it performs a very critical function as a water barrier. If that’s compromised in any way, then, you can be at risk for dehydration and, degradation in the properties of the healthy living part of the skin, the epidermis and, and the dermis.

> With the COVID pandemic, there began a heightened awareness of the value of technologies that could continuously monitor health status.... We have introduced a number of skin interface devices for measuring vital signs like electrocardiograms, blood oxygenation, body temperature
>
> **JOHN A. ROGERS**
> Professor
> Northwestern University

Therefore, measuring water permeation through the skin can tell you a lot about the barrier function of the skin, and various skin disorders can reduce the barrier functions, he explains. “You can monitor that. Transcutaneous CO_2 for example, coming right through the surface of the skin is important, and physicians already know how to interpret that.” He adds that their assumption is that the device, with its capacity to read and measure the environmental species that enters the body through the skin will likely yield additional insights that physicians are not aware of yet.

What the device does

The device itself, he describes, is like a small pocket, with wireless electronics that can transmit data to your phone. It also has a chamber that forms a microclimate when the device is sealed against the surface of the skin. Suspended within that chamber is a suite of sensors, very small semiconductor devices that can measure water, CO_2, and various volatile organic compounds. On the back, there is a valve that can be opened and closed through a wireless trigger. When the valve is closed and the device is on the surface of the skin, the sensors measure a gradual increase in the concentration of water vapour and CO_2. When the valve is open to the surrounding environment, the heightened concentrations of those species can dissipate because now those species can just diffuse out to the surrounding environment. “We make measurements with the valve closed, then open, and so on. The rate at which those concentrations increase determines the flux.”

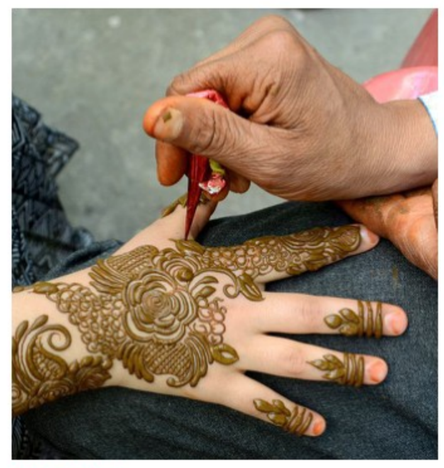
These low-cost devices can just be adhered to the surface of the skin, and measure these properties continuously, without a physician having to be at call. The device can be mounted anywhere on body and track outward flux and also inward flux at the same time.

An additional vital sign

Prof. Rogers says there has already been some interest in the device from the perfumery industry. And while it has not yet been studied in an environment where the patient has suffered burns, he added that it would be an exciting pathway to launch on. Once adequate data emerges from the device over a period of time, measurements off the skin might turn out to be an additional vital sign that doctors rely on to estimate the health of their patients, in addition to the conventional vital signs.

(ramya.kannan@thehindu.co.in)

To watch full video of the interview, scan the QR



Deep marks: Many commercially available mehendi products are now mixed with additives and chemicals. FILE PHOTO

Dangers of adulterated henna

Monisha Madhumita

For centuries, mehendi, traditionally made from the crushed leaves of the *Lawsonia inermis* plant, has been an essential part of Indian celebrations, symbolising joy and auspicious beginnings at weddings and festivals. However, a growing body of reports about burns, allergic reactions, and even long-term skin damage after mehendi application has raised an important question: is all mehendi truly safe today?

To meet the rising demand for faster, darker stains, many commercially available mehendi products are now mixed with additives and chemicals. One such chemical is para-phenylenediamine (PPD), a synthetic compound used to intensify and quicken colour development, producing a near-black stain within hours.

“Natural henna is generally safe and gives a brown to red colour. But most commercially available mehendi is adulterated with PPD,” explains D. Dinesh Kumar, president of the Tamil Nadu branch of the Indian Association of Dermatologists, Venereologists and Leprologists and chief dermatologist at Dr. Dinesh Skin & Hair Clinic, Chennai. “PPD can cause severe allergic reactions, leading to burns, blisters, and long-term skin sensitisation. While permitted in controlled concentrations for use in hair dyes under international regulations, it is not approved for direct application on the skin,” he adds.

Allergic reactions and burns

When adulterated mehendi containing PPD is applied to the skin, the chemical can rapidly penetrate the outer barrier and provoke a delayed hypersensitivity reaction – marked by a severe immune response. In susceptible individuals, this manifests as intense itching and burning within hours of application, swelling, redness, and inflammation along the design, formation of fluid-filled blisters or ulcers. In severe cases, permanent scarring and pigment changes can occur.

The risk is higher in people with pre-existing skin conditions.

“Even someone who has used mehendi safely for years can suddenly develop an allergy if exposed to adulterated products,” says Dr. Dinesh.

This phenomenon, known as sensitisation, means the immune system becomes primed to overreact to the chemical after initial exposure. Once sensitised to PPD, individuals are at lifelong risk of reacting not only to henna but also to related chemicals in hair dyes, black clothing dyes, and even certain types of rubber or adhesives.

Spotting chemical-laced mehendi can be difficult, but there are signs consumers can look out for in products. Natural henna stains take 24-48 hours to fully darken from orange to deep brown. Black or very dark stains appearing within one or two hours is suspicious. A chemical odour can be a tell-tale sign, as pure henna has an earthy, grassy aroma. Also, read label warnings: exercise caution if the cone or packet promotes “instant colour,” “dark black colour,” or lacks a full ingredient list.

Performing a patch test is a simple but crucial step to prevent adverse reactions. Dr. Dinesh recommends: “Apply a small amount of henna on the inner arm or behind the ear. Monitor for any redness, itching, or discomfort over 48 hours. If there is no reaction, it is generally safe to proceed.”

(Dr. Monisha Madhumita is Assistant Professor, Department of Dermatology, Venereology and Leprosy, Saveetha Medical College, Chennai. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

The 2009 Swine flu pandemic was caused by a new strain of the virus, combining genes from pigs, birds, and humans. Here is a quiz on H1N1 virus

Athira Elssa Johnson

QUESTION 1
What is the scientific name of the H1N1 virus?

QUESTION 2
What is the primary mode of transmission of the H1N1 virus?

QUESTION 3
H1N1 primarily affects only humans and does not spread among animals. True or false ?

QUESTION 4
How can you prevent the spread of H1N1? Mention three important measures

QUESTION 5
Many H1N1 influenza pandemics have occurred over the years. Can you mention the year in which he most recent one took place?

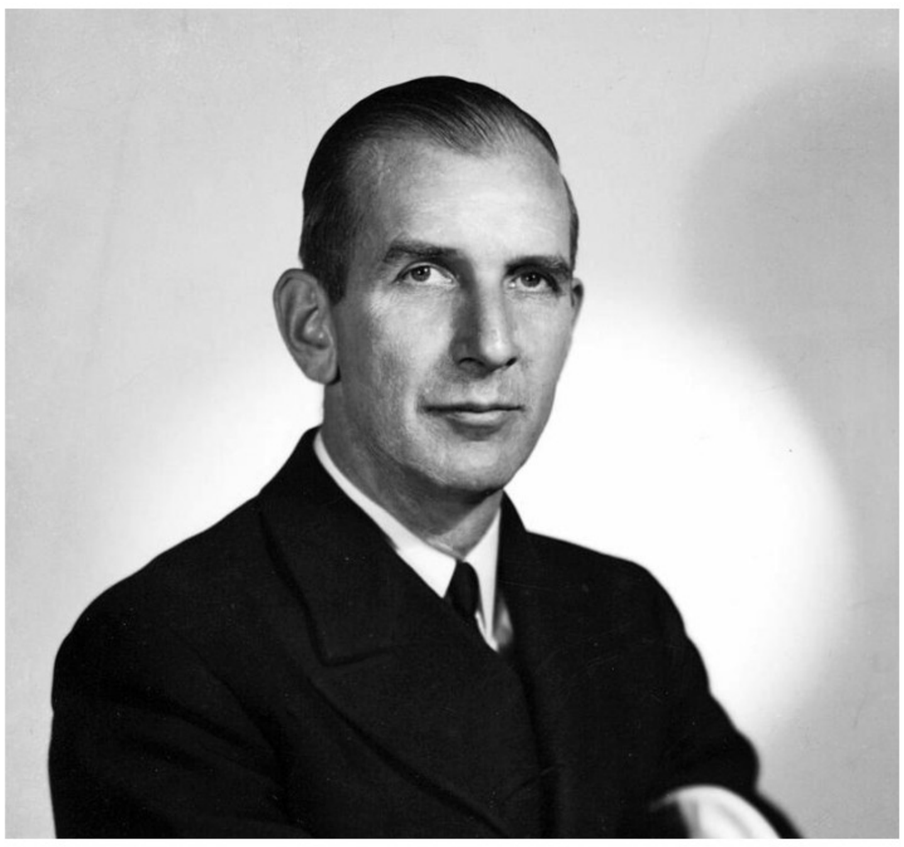
QUESTION 6
H1N1 stands for Hemagglutinin (H) — that makes the virus attach to host cells and ____ , that makes the virus spread. The “1” refers to the specific subtype of the virus’s proteins.

QUESTION 7
Does the flu vaccine provide lifetime immunity against H1N1?

QUESTION 8
Which vaccine provides protection against the H1N1 virus?

QUESTION 9
Is H1N1 virus still a threat today?

Visual question: This pioneering scientist first identified the influenza virus in the 1930s, paving the way for H1N1 research. Who is he?
WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



For feedback and suggestions
for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

Lack of segregation in city affects production at waste-to-energy plant

The plant at Bidadi requires 600 tonnes of properly segregated dry waste every day to produce 11.5 MW of electricity

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

On one side, the civic administration is finding it difficult to manage the waste in Bengaluru. On the other side, the waste-to-energy (WtE) plant at Bidadi, which is a joint venture of Karnataka Power Corporation Limited (KPCL) and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), is looking for more dry waste to produce energy, but is not getting it.

Karnataka's first of its kind WtE plant was set up across 10 acres of the vast 163-acre premises of the KPCL. While one may expect a waste processing plant to generate a stench that stretches a few hundred metres, this plant spanning four levels looks surprisingly tidy. Except for the place where garbage is dumped and transported, there is no stench at any other place.

After an accident claimed the lives of five persons in January, the plant resumed operations on April 4. However, the plant has not been able to generate 11.5 Megawatts (MW) of electricity every day, which is its full generation capacity, due to the lack of dry waste.

A view of the waste-to-energy plant at Bidadi near Bengaluru. N. RAVICHANDRAN

The plant requires 600 tonnes of properly segregated dry waste every day to produce 11.5 MW of electricity. The KPCL officials say that they have been receiving not more than 400 metric tonnes of waste every day from the BBMP. Since the plant was commissioned in October 2024, it has run for a total of 115 days, and the gross generation has been 20.4636 Million Units (MU).

"We have received 67,529 tonnes of waste till now. If we had received the required quantity of 600 tonnes a day, then we could have generated 31 MU more power," said Satish Kumar H., executive engineer (Bidadi), KPC Gas Power Corporation Limited.

How the plant works

Once the waste arrives at the plant, it is dumped into a storage pit whose total capacity is 4,200 tonnes (to hold enough waste for power generation for one week). The waste is treated, and all the moisture is removed before sending it to the combustor where it burns at high temperatures. This heat is used to heat the water inside boilers, which forms steam, which is then used to rotate the turbines and produce electricity.

The electricity is evacuated to a Bidadi sub-station to be integrated into the grid. The fly ash goes out through the chimney while other ash is aggregated and sent back to landfills.

The waste required by the plant is called refuse-derived fuel (RDF), which is essentially combustible waste, which is obtained at the dry waste collection centres after sorting items, which can be recycled or reused. This RDF should ideally be free of metals, which hamper the working of the plant. KPCL officials say that this is not the case with the RDF they receive.

"The RDF often contains metal, which gets stuck in the grates. We cannot run the machines until we clear the grates. There have been instances where we had to shut down the plant for a day or two to remove the metal. As we also get our RDF from Mandur landfill, which has a lot of legacy waste, we get spring mattresses and gas cylinders, which are our biggest problems," Mr. Kumar explained.

The accident in January reportedly occurred when workers were trying to pull out metal from the grates. KPCL officials said that they are constantly in meetings with the BBMP to get higher quantity and better quality RDF so that the plant, whose cost is ₹310 crore, can achieve maximum generation.

KPCL also plans to install solar panels across a major part of the 163-acre premises to enhance the overall generation capacity in Karnataka.

Problem of mixed waste continues

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A total of 5,000 tonnes of waste is generated every day in the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) limits. However, among this, only around 2,000 tonnes are segregated while the other 3,000 tonnes come in as mixed waste.

"The problem is that there is no segregation at the source. We still get a large quantity of mixed waste. We have been creating awareness about segregation, but it is not happening. In our next tender, we have decided to implement the rule that waste collection should only happen separately," said Lokesh, Chief Engineer, Solid Waste Management (SWM), BBMP.

Woman claims to be D.K. Suresh's wife on social media post, held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Ramanagara Cyber Crime police on Tuesday arrested a 30-year-old woman who claimed to be the wife of former Congress MP D.K. Suresh.

The accused has been charged with impersonation and forgery, among other offences, based on a complaint by Pradeepa T., a Ramanagara-based advocate.

The complainant alleged that Pavitra Dodalahalli, a primary school teacher, claimed she was Mr. Suresh's wife through posts on Facebook and Instagram accounts. The complainant also alleged that the woman posted photographs of D.K. Suresh, photoshopped along with her pictures, and also used the Congress party logo in some of the pictures.

According to the police FIR, on April 8, the woman posted a video on her Instagram account, claiming that she was proud of Mr. Suresh's work as an MP and that she was happy to be his wife.

On March 22, the woman posted a screenshot of her voter ID on her Instagram account that had D.K. Suresh's name written towards the husband's name, the FIR stated.

National integration camp from May 3

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The National Service Scheme (NSS) of Kuvempu University will hold a seven-day national integration camp from May 3. Over 150 students from six States are expected to participate in the event.

Students and NSS programme officers from universities in Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka will attend the camp, organised under the theme Youth for Vikasit Bharath.

Dhananjay Sarji, MLC, will inaugurate the camp on the Shankarghatta campus.

Woman sexually harassed by bike-borne men

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Marathahalli police are on the lookout for two men who allegedly sexually harassed a 26-year-old private firm employee on Wednesday night.

The victim was returning home from work when the duo followed her on a bike and sexually harassed her, before speeding away.

Shocked, the victim reached home and narrated the incident to her family members before reporting the matter to the police.

The police have registered a case of sexual harassment against the duo and efforts are on to identify them.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, MAY. 02	
RISE 05:59	SET 18:35
RISE 10:07	SET 23:33
SATURDAY, MAY. 03	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 11:09	SET 00:00
SUNDAY, MAY. 04	
RISE 05:58	SET 18:35
RISE 12:06	SET 00:24

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	26
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	34	22

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Spell of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds at few places.

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THE HINDU
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Trouble-causing tusker captured

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Forest Department captured a trouble-causing tusker at Magadi estate in Halasulige village of Sakleshpur taluk in Hassan district on Thursday.

Villagers believe that this tusker was responsible for the death of Shanmukha, who died in an elephant attack at Baikere on April 25. They also believe that the animal had attacked a couple of agricultural workers in nearby villages.

The elephant task force tracked down the animal. Veterinarians successfully sedated the pachyderm by firing a tranquilliser dart. Later, the task force captured the animal with the help of tamed elephants Kanjan, Sugreeva, Dhananjaya, Mahendra, Ekalavya, and Bhima. The captured tusker is about 20 years old. The Forest Department took the initiative after protests demanding its capture following recent incidents of human-elephant conflict. Conservator of Forests Yedukondalu V. and Deputy Conservator of Forests Sourabh Kumar were among those who took part in the operation.

UGC fiat on incorporating Indian Knowledge Systems in curricula faces opposition

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The directive is to incorporate IKS in all UG, PG courses based on guidelines issued in March 2023

Opposition is brewing among academics, educationists, and progressive organisations regarding the University Grant Commission (UGC) mandate to incorporate Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) in the higher education system.

With an aim to introduce ancient Indian culture to students, the UGC has instructed to incorporate IKS in all undergraduate (UG) and postgraduate (PG) courses based on the guidelines released in March 2023.

UGC has also taken steps to award credit points to students taking IKS. "At least 50% of the credits apportioned to the IKS should be related to the major discipline and should be accounted for the credits assigned to the major discipline," the UGC has said.

Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has already implemented IKS in engineering courses from the fourth semester and has taken steps to conduct exams for 50 marks.

As per the guidelines, the UGC has prescribed 18 courses in model curricula in IKS, including Indian Health Sciences, and Indian astronomy. The foundation course of IKS includes the topic of Foundational Literature of Indian Civilisation, the Vedic Corpus, Ramayana and Mahabharata, and their important regional versions, the role of 'Itihasas' and 'Puranas' in understanding the Vedas and Vedangas and others.

In Indian languages, emphasis is given to Sanskrit and its grammar. "Vedic maths" has been emphasised. Indian astronomy, , panchanga, lagana, and its computations, and others have been included.

However, educationists and progressive organisations have expressed objections to the topics included in IKS, alleging that its real purpose is to spread Hindutva ideology and brahminical values among students.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mavalli Shankar, convener of Dalt Sagharasha Samiti (DSS), said, "Earlier, when Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister, the then Human Resource Development Minister Murli Manohar Joshi had facilitated the teaching of astrology and other topics in the name of IKS in universities. Now the BJP-led Union government is glorifying one religion to saffronise our education system."

"The UGC has mentioned the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and Puranas in its guidelines under the topic of Foundational Literature of Indian Civilisation. These are fictional stories and have no connection with Indian civilisation. Is IKS only related to the Hindu religion?" he asked.

"Incorporating IKS higher education curricula is nothing but an attempt to destroy the efforts made in independent India to build a strong modern education based on systematic research, knowledge, and scientific foundation," development educationist Niranjanaradhya V.P., said.

"This can hinder the development of a scientific mindset and scientific inquiry, and often focuses only on a myopic Hindu-centric view of ancient India. This is a violation of Article 51 A (h) of the Constitution that mandates a duty to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform," he said.

CM holds out hope to other workers who assist in keeping city clean

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Close on the heels of regularising the services of 12,692 pourakarmikas in Bengaluru, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday promised to regularise the services of nearly 9,000 other workers engaged in cleanliness work including drivers, assistants and waste operators in the coming days.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and Leader of Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge during distribution of appointment letters to pourakarmikas in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Addressing a programme organised in Bengaluru to distribute appointment/confirmation orders to pourakarmikas and also celebrate Pourakarmikas' Day, the Chief Minister declared that the government was committed to regularising the services of co-workers in cleaning works on the lines of pourakarmikas.

While the services of only sweepers have been regularised, there has been a consistent demand to bring waste collectors also out of the clutches of the contractors and regularise their services.

From previous tenure

Mr. Siddaramaiah recalled that he had begun working towards the welfare of pourakarmikas in his first stint as Chief Minister between 2013 and 2018.

"Then the pourakarmikas were being cheated by the contractors who engaged their services by not giving them justifiable salaries. Hence, I introduced a direct bank transfer system under which the pourakarmikas would get ₹17,000 a month in accordance with the Minimum Wages Act as against the earlier ₹7,000," he said.

He said that as per the election promise ahead of the 2023 polls, their services are now being regularised. "This will bring about a positive change in your lives as you would get ₹39,000 a month," the Chief Minister told the pourakarmikas.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar, who is also in-charge of Bengaluru city, said the government considers pourakarmikas as ambassadors of cleanliness. "Your contribution is significant in making this city get global recognition," he remarked.

Mr. Shivakumar said the government was considering implementing the various recommendations of the IPD Salappa Committee for the welfare of pourakarmikas in a phased manner. The implementation of the recommendations is expected to cost ₹600 crore, he noted.

Participating in the event, Leader of the Opposition in Rajya Sabha and AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge batted for the regularisation of pourakarmikas across Karnataka. "Now that the Congress government has regularised the service of 12,692 pourakarmikas here, I hope it is extended to their counterparts working in various local government bodies as well," he said.

Two-day Jackfruit Festival from May 3

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Jackfruit Festival, which is conducted every year, will be held in Mysuru on May 3 and 4 and feature many varieties of the fruit from different parts of the State and the country.

Organised by Sahja Samrudha, in collaboration with Amul Organic and Rich Plus, the festival will be held at the Nanjaraja Bahadur Choultry.

The organisers said that the event promises to be an enriching experience for producers, consumers, and enthusiasts alike. Krishnaprasad of Sahaja Samrudha said that jackfruit was one of the most nutritious and versatile fruits, and the fourth-largest fruit crop in the country in terms of production. He said it is known for its rich medicinal and nutraceutical properties, and experts vouch for the rich vitamin and mineral content in the fruit.

APPOINTMENT

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

India's Goods and Services Tax (GST) collection in April

2.37 In ₹ lakh crore. GST collection rose 12.6% Y-o-Y to an all-time high of about ₹2.37 lakh crore in April. This is the second-highest collection ever since the roll-out of the indirect tax regime on July 1, 2017. In March 2025, the collection was ₹1.96 lakh crore. PTI

Death toll in Sudan's north Darfur in the past three weeks

542 At least 542 civilians have been confirmed killed in Sudan's north Darfur region in the past three weeks, the UN said, warning that the actual death toll was likely "much higher". "The horror unfolding in Sudan knows no bounds," UN rights chief Volker Turk said. AFP

The acres of land ravaged in a major wildfire in Israel

5,000 The fire broke out around midday, fuelled by hot, dry conditions and fanned by strong winds that quickly whipped up the flames burning through a pine forest. Several communities were evacuated as a precaution. AP

Amount the U.S. is investing in universal vaccines project

500 In $ million. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, the "universal" vaccines aim to instantly protect against multiple strains of a virus. The project will use chemically inactivated whole viruses, a method similar to older flu vaccine techniques. REUTERS

The fall in Ukraine's agricultural export in the month of April

23 In per cent. Ukrainian Agribusiness Club said exports of grains fell by 33%, oilseed by 3%, while shipments of vegetable oil rose by 6%. The agriculture ministry data showed that Ukraine has exported a total of 35.1 million tonnes of grain. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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How can India tap its natural hydrogen potential?

What are some of the challenges to exploring and exploiting natural hydrogen resources? Is it a more expensive process than manufacturing hydrogen? How is the U.S. going beyond just trying to locate and excavate natural hydrogen deposits? Does India have a growing hydrogen demand?

EXPLAINER

Kalyan Mangalapalli

The story so far:

For India, an economy in growth mode with aspirations for energy independence and a pledge to reach net-zero emissions by 2070, the exploitation and use of natural hydrogen offers a potentially game-changing opportunity. In an increasingly volatile world where national sovereignty, economic stability, and energy security become inseparable, tapping into this naturally occurring commodity could go a long way toward enhancing India's strategic autonomy.

How much potential does India have?

India's hydrogen demand was projected to grow from six million tonnes per year (Mt/year) in 2020 to over 50 Mt/year by 2070 to support its net-zero target. A preliminary study, by some members of academia referencing model predictions of global geologic hydrogen resources, arrives at a value of 3,475 million tonnes of natural hydrogen potential in India. If these estimates were to be true, we may not even need to engage in the process of manufacturing hydrogen anymore but rather pursue the quest of finding and producing naturally occurring hydrogen that would help decarbonise our economy faster at a lower cost.

On the heels of the recent findings of natural hydrogen reserves in the Andamans, stakeholders need to come up with directional estimates to bring attention of policy makers and investors to the overall potential of natural hydrogen in India. A comprehensive geological study is essential, considering critical factors such as the quality, extent, thickness, accessibility, and hydrocarbon generation potential of the source rock; presence and effectiveness of seals and traps; size and viability of hydrocarbon accumulations; potential losses during migration; and the accessibility of the area for exploration and development.

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

What are the challenges?

Natural hydrogen exploitation and exploration is no easy feat. It has technical, logistical, economical, and safety-related challenges. Accurately locating and quantifying underground hydrogen reserves is the primary challenge. Unlike oil and gas, for which well-established exploration techniques exist, natural hydrogen exploration is still evolving. Additionally, efficient and cost-effective extraction technology for natural hydrogen is key. While modifying current gas industry practices associated with well drilling and extraction facilities, one must consider hydrogen's specific properties, including its small molecular size and high diffusivity. Studies into extraction solutions for lowest cost hydrogen are in progress.

Hydrogen extraction also involves specific safety issues as opposed to hydrocarbons because of its high diffusivity and reactivity. Mitigation measures involve the study and application of hydrogen-resistant materials such as metal coatings and advanced alloys, cement additives to make it more resistant to hydrogen, and rubber fillers to avoid degradation.

How can India kickstart the process?

A key component of the Indian Solar PV mission's growth was the German Agency for International Cooperation-National Institute of Wind Energy funded Solar Radiation Resource Assessment (SRRA) Project under the National Solar Mission that commissioned 121 SRRA stations along with four Advanced Monitoring Stations (AMS). Natural hydrogen agencies can formulate a similar public private partnership to assist in the identification of potential geographical deposits.

The U.S. ARPA-E's newly funded projects take exploring the potential of geologic hydrogen beyond locating and extracting trapped geologic hydrogen towards the possibility that hydrogen can be produced intentionally, by drilling and flowing water into rock and then transporting the hydrogen to the surface for collection. Another approach involves injecting water with dissolved carbon dioxide into iron-containing rocks that could potentially lead to carbon sequestration as limestone while simultaneously producing hydrogen.

The Oil and Gas Exploration industry in India, with the help of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons, could review the rock samples available with them and explore more wells across the country with adequate grant and debt capital. A few of the current natural gas pipelines could be suitable for transporting hydrogen with adequate modifications and safety studies. Creating low-cost and safe solutions for hydrogen storage, especially massive underground storage, is imperative.

Even as estimates indicate natural hydrogen production would be much lower in cost than produced hydrogen, the actual cost of exploration, extraction, and infrastructure investment must be weighed seriously. Commercial feasibility will rely on finding large and accessible reserves and minimising extraction and delivery costs. Targeted exploration in areas of high potential, cost-reducing extraction technology development, and institution of transparent regulatory systems are essential to spur investment and market growth.

Kalyan Mangalapalli is an expert in Energy and Emerging Technologies and serves as a member of the International Advisory Board of the Indian Institute of Petroleum Energy, Visakhapatnam. This is the second of a two part series on naturally occurring hydrogen reserves.

THE GIST

- India's hydrogen demand was projected to grow from six million tonnes per year (Mt/year) in 2020 to over 50 Mt/year by 2070 to support its net-zero target.
- Natural hydrogen exploitation and exploration is no easy feat. It has technical, logistical, economical, and safety-related challenges.
- The U.S. ARPA-E's newly funded projects take exploring the potential of geologic hydrogen beyond locating and extracting trapped geologic hydrogen towards the possibility that hydrogen can be produced intentionally.

Can the Indus Waters Treaty be suspended unilaterally?

What does the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties stipulate with respect to suspending or terminating treaties between countries? How will a disruption in water flow affect Pakistan?

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) gives India unrestricted rights over the three eastern rivers – Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej. While Pakistan was given exclusive control over the three western rivers – Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab, India retained limited rights to use the waters for "non-consumptive" purposes. However, following the terror attack in Pahalgam on April 22, India announced the IWT would be held in abeyance with "immediate effect".

Is unilateral suspension permissible?

The IWT cannot be altered unilaterally. Article XII stipulates that the treaty can only be terminated through a "duly ratified treaty" agreed upon by both states. The term "hold in abeyance," as used by India in its letter to Pakistan, is neither recognised in international law nor mentioned in the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT), 1969, the principal treaty governing agreements between states. "The VCLT does not use the word 'abeyance'; it uses the term 'suspension,' which allows a country to suspend the operation of an entire treaty or a part of it. Suspension is distinct from termination. I believe that when India used the word 'abeyance,' it intended to mean 'suspension' rather than termination of the IWT," Dr. Prabhash Ranjan, professor at Jindal Global Law School, told *The Hindu*.

Article 62 of the VCLT allows a treaty to be repudiated if there has been a "fundamental change of circumstances" from those existing at the time of its conclusion. Although India is not a party to the VCLT and Pakistan has signed but not ratified it, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in the *Fisheries Jurisdiction* cases affirmed that Article 62 codifies customary international law and is therefore binding regardless of formal ratification. India appears to be invoking this principle, as its letter stated that "fundamental changes in the circumstances" require a "reassessment of obligations" under the IWT. However, Dr. Ranjan pointed out that ICJ rulings have set a high threshold for what qualifies as a "fundamental change in circumstances". In the 1997 Gabcíkovo-Nagymaros Project dispute between Hungary and Slovakia over the construction of a dam, Hungary argued that political and economic shifts, along with the threat of environmental disaster, provided sufficient grounds to terminate the treaty. However, the ICJ rejected these arguments, noting that the political and economic changes were not directly linked to the treaty's primary objective – joint energy production.

How will this affect Pakistan?

More than 80% of Pakistan's agriculture and around a third of its hydropower generation depend on the waters of the Indus basin. However, experts say that India lacks the massive storage infrastructure and extensive canal systems needed to withhold tens of billions of cubic metres of water from the western rivers. "The infrastructure India possesses consists largely of run-of-the-river hydropower plants, which do not have the capacity for large-scale storage. However, the real impact lies in the uncertainty over water flow, which could severely affect Pakistan's predominantly agrarian economy. If India begins regulating the flow using its existing infrastructure, Pakistan could experience significant disruptions," Dr. Happymon Jacob, associate professor at the School of International Studies, JNU, told *The Hindu*. A senior government official earlier told *The Hindu* that India will explore "options that it has never considered" under the IWT, such as redesigning its hydroelectric projects to increase water storage capacity and deploying 'drawdown flushing' of its reservoirs. The abrupt release of large volumes of water without prior warning could potentially cause significant damage downstream in Pakistan.

THE GIST

- The 1960 Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) gives India unrestricted rights over the three eastern rivers — Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej.
- The IWT cannot be altered unilaterally. Article XII stipulates that the treaty can only be terminated through a "duly ratified treaty" agreed upon by both states.
- More than 80% of Pakistan's agriculture and around a third of its hydropower generation depend on the waters of the Indus basin.

Long way to go: The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike has implemented the Parking Policy 2.0 only in parts. For instance, it has introduced paid parking on 85 road stretches in the CBD, including on Commercial Street. The pilots have seen limited success. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Resolving Bengaluru's parking woes: The need to bell the cat

Haphazard, unregulated on-street parking is further adding to the chaos on city roads. **Shreyas H.S.** finds that what is lacking is a political will to take decisions that may be unpopular, even as what needs to be done is clear, with the DULT's Parking Policy 2.0 gathering dust for 12 years now

Every Saturday evening, Sudarshan Yadav, a real estate broker living in J.P. Nagar in south Bengaluru, sets off for Church Street in the city centre with a sense of dread – not for the long commute, but for the final hurdle: finding a parking slot. "It takes me over 10 minutes just to circle around for parking. Some days, I have had to park half a kilometre away and walk," he says.

Prajwal Kumar, a software engineer, says, "By the time I leave for work, the minimal parking space available at Peenya Metro Station is full. Sometimes, I go one or two stations ahead and find parking. Otherwise, I end up driving to work. With no proper last-mile connectivity, the lack of adequate parking space around metro stations is also discouraging many from using the service for commuting."

Then and now: The pilot of the smart parking project was launched on Kasturba Road in December 2019. The scene now on the road. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Across Bengaluru, the struggle for parking has become an everyday ordeal, affecting office-goers, traders, shoppers, and residents alike.

Bengaluru's rapid transformation into India's tech capital and unplanned growth have brought with them a surge in vehicles, overwhelming the city's infrastructure. According to official data, Bengaluru is now home to over 1.23 crore registered vehicles, with two-wheelers accounting for more than 70%. The growing affluence of the middle class has also played a role, with more households owning multiple vehicles. However, the city's parking infrastructure has failed to keep pace, leading to unregulated on-street parking and resultant traffic congestion.

Parking woes in Bengaluru are a symptom of deeper urban issues. The city has grown in an unplanned and fragmented manner, with residential areas transforming into commercial hubs without accompanying changes in infrastructure. Many areas have narrow roads that can barely accommodate two vehicles side by side, let alone offer parking for hundreds of visitors. The failure of the city's civic body, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), to implement zonal regulation for commercial activities has worsened the situation. In places such as Indiranagar in east Bengaluru and J.P. Nagar, owing to commercial activities in residential areas, vehicles are illegally parked on roads with some even blocking entrances to residences.

"Parking woe is just one of the symptoms of the rampant illegal commercialisation, especially in residential areas. The law prescribes an adequate parking space that each commercial establishment should provide. But nobody is following these norms; trade licences are being doled out without an inspection of the business premises and in several cases, huge businesses are running even without trade licences," says Sneha Nandihal of I Change Indiranagar, a citizen initiative.

> Without enforcement, we cannot make paid parking viable. The BBMP is discussing with the traffic police to empower contractors who put up private parking infrastructure to enforce paid parking.
>
> **TUSHAR GIRI NATH,** BBMP Administrator

Public transport options – though improving – remain inadequate or poorly integrated. Metro connectivity is still limited, and last-mile connectivity continues to be a major challenge. As a result, dependence on private vehicles remains high.

Traffic congestion due to haphazard on-street parking has worsened as Bengaluru Traffic Police (BTP) suspended vehicle towing following a public outcry against it in February 2022. Currently, the BTP clamps the tires of the vehicles parked in no-parking areas. However, this measure does not clear the vehicles from the roads and offers no solution to improving traffic congestion.

Recently, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the State government was contemplating reintroducing towing at least in high-density corridors and the central business district (CBD). However, months after this announcement, towing has not been reintroduced. Government sources said no such formal proposal is under consideration.

Parking Policy 2.0

It is not that there has never been a holistic parking plan for Bengaluru. The Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) drafted the Parking Policy 2.0 in 2012, providing for even area-level parking management plans to tackle the parking menace. However, this policy argues for privatised paid parking, a non-populist option that no government has had the political will to accept and enforce, yet.

The Parking Policy 2.0 was approved by the government in 2012. It emphasises the need for demand-based paid parking, especially in high-traffic areas such as the CBD. The core objective is to discourage the excessive use of private vehicles by making parking more expensive and difficult to find, and thereby promote public transport and non-motorised mobility.

A comprehensive framework aimed at transforming how parking is managed in Bengaluru, the policy also addresses issues such as rapid urbanisation, increased vehicular ownership, and strained infrastructure by rethinking how space is utilised for vehicle parking.

According to the policy document, the lack of an organised parking system has exacerbated traffic issues, particularly due to unregulated on-street parking and underutilised off-street facilities. These problems are attributed to factors such as inefficient public transportation, inadequate infrastructure for walking and cycling, and the absence of pricing mechanisms to control demand.

The policy proposes four strategic transitions to navigate this crisis effectively – from chaotic to organised parking, from free to paid parking, from government-managed to market-driven parking systems, and from passive enforcement to active parking demand management, says a DULT official.

These objectives are supported by 11 detailed policy directives, including preparing area-level parking management plans, implementing structured parking charges, streamlining on-street and residential parking, expanding off-street infrastructure, and introducing specialised regulations for areas influenced by transit-oriented development.

One of the policy's cornerstones is the introduction of paid parking based on demand and location. Pricing is designed to discourage long-term and on-street parking while promoting off-street and park-and-ride options. A permit system is proposed for residential streets, where on-street parking will be regulated and limited to avoid misuse and congestion. The policy also encourages private participation in developing parking facilities and stresses the use of technology for efficient monitoring, data sharing, and enforcement.

A central parking portal was proposed in the policy to unify public parking data, enabling users to access real-time availability and make reservations. The policy aims to integrate all public and private parking into this system, promoting transparency and efficient space usage. Revenue generated from parking is proposed to be reinvested into sustainable urban mobility initiatives.

A patchy roll-out and poor results

However good the policy may be, it is as good as its implementation. The BBMP began implementing the Parking Policy 2.0 only in parts and never in its entirety. For instance, the civic body introduced paid parking on 85 stretches of roads in the CBD and a few roads in busy hubs such as Koramangala in the city's southeast. The pilots have seen success to a limited extent, mainly due to the lack of enforcement against haphazard on-street parking around these paid parking zones.

A BBMP official says traders complained that paid parking discourages footfall, particularly for small businesses relying on walk-in customers. A contractor who maintains the paid parking system at Indiranagar says, "The app-based system is inconvenient and lacks adequate signage or assistance. This elicited backlash from commuters. The BBMP first rolled out the app-based system and later suspended it, only to bring it back without making any changes. The number of vehicles arriving at parking spots is more than the slots available."

Meanwhile, following recommendations to expand off-street parking infrastructure, the BBMP built many multi-level parking (MLP) facilities, the latest one being at Freedom Park. While the MLP facility on J.C. Road, near Garuda Mall, and K.G. Road – all in the CBD – and at several traffic and transit management centres in different localities are performing relatively well, with weekday occupancy rates reaching nearly 70%, indicating a steady usage, the facility at Freedom Park paints a different picture. Despite being in the city centre, it has failed to attract adequate users. BBMP officials attribute this to the lack of strict parking enforcement in the surrounding areas, especially in Gandhinagar.

How to drive behavioural change?

The parking plan should be viewed from a demand-management angle and not supply, says Ashish Verma, transportation expert and professor at IISc. "We still treat roads as spaces for free storage of private vehicles, rather than prioritising mobility, pedestrians, and public transport. The Parking Policy 2.0 has a somewhat holistic approach, but it was not implemented. One cannot go on establishing parking slots that will encourage people to buy cars and bring them on the road. Instead, the governments or civic bodies must incentivise public transport," he says.

At the core of the parking problem is the need to drive behavioural change, for which several unpopular decisions need to be enforced, which no political dispensation has been willing to do for over 12 years since the policy was approved.

Leave alone forcing commuters to shift from private to public transport, which is a big behavioural change, the city has been resisting the first step itself – implementing paid parking and also towing of vehicles from no-parking zones. Without strict enforcement against wrongful parking on our streets, there is no way we can ease congestion or make paid parking zones viable.

Tushar Giri Nath, who was the Chief Civic Commissioner when *The Hindu* spoke with him and is now the civic body's Administrator and Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development Department, admitted that enforcement has failed. "Without enforcement, we cannot make paid parking viable. The BBMP is discussing with Bengaluru Traffic Police to empower contractors who put up private parking infrastructure to enforce paid parking. Otherwise, erratic parking will not stop, and parking facilities will not be viable. In residential areas that have many empty plots, we want to empower plot owners to not only put up parking infrastructure but also tow vehicles on the road," he says.

Meanwhile, the public transport infrastructure of Bengaluru is expected to grow multifold in a few years. "Currently, we have 74 km of Namma Metro network and 66 stations. By 2030, we will likely have a total network of 368 km, including Namma Metro and suburban rail, and we will have over 230 stations. We are on the cusp, and we are all set to make a big leap in a short time. By then, we need to work on integrating all these modes of transport with Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses and other shared riding options for last-mile connectivity," says Srinivas Alavilli, a fellow at World Resources Institute - India.

Responding to demands for adequate parking spaces at metro and suburban rail stations in the city, Alavilli argues that given the vehicle density of Bengaluru, park and ride solutions are unlikely to work. "Parking facilities can be given at stations at the end of metro lines such as Madavara and Challaghatta. If we have to acquire land and provide parking, then vehicle owners should be ready to shell out commercial rates. But our focus must be to provide seamless last-mile connectivity to make people choose public transport over private transport," he says.

Vehicles parked at the paid facility near Mysuru Road Metro Station in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

IN THE LIMELIGHT

50 Years of Rajinikanth: the filmmakers who made the star

With Rajinikanth wrapping up five decades of being in front of the camera, we look at the directors whose contributions proved pivotal for the actor to not only stay relevant, but thrive as one of Asia's biggest stars

Gopinath Rajendran

Recently, an image of Rajinikanth with a bunch of his recent directors went viral. Clicked on the sets of the actor's upcoming film, *Jailer 2*, it had the film's director Nelson along with Karthik Subbaraj (*Petta*) and Lokesh Kanagaraj (whose film with Rajini, *Coolie*, will be the actor's next release). What is interesting to note is that none of the three directors were even born when Rajini made his debut in 1975, with K. Balachander's *Apoorva Raagangal*. Interestingly, 50 years later, on the same release date as the yesteryear film, Rajini's *Coolie* will hit theatres.

The transition from working with established industry legends to fresh blood has been a tried and tested process for Rajini. Just like a film, making a star is also not a one-person job. Over the years, Rajini has teamed with a variety of filmmakers with varying levels of experience. Let's look at some of the directors who catapulted this actor into stardom.

An actor in the making

Along with fellow talents like Kamal Haasan, Chiranjeevi, Jaya Prada, Sridevi and Jayasudha, Rajini was also nurtured by the legendary Balachander who, after *Apoorva Raagangal*, gave him his subsequent Tamil films *Moondru Mudichu* and *Avargal*. Interestingly, all these films co-starred Kamal Haasan. Over the years, Balachander would work multiple times with the actor in films like *Thappu Thalangal*, *Ninaithale Inikkum* and *Thillu Mullu*.

The young Rajini's sophomore was the Kannada anthology film *Katha Sangama*, by veteran Kannada filmmaker Puttanna Kanagal. Balachander also gave Rajini his Telugu debut with *Anthuleni Katha*. Despite doing a few Kannada and Telugu films in the late 70s, Rajini got his first experience working with a relatively new Tamil filmmaker in *Kavikkuyil* (1977), co-starring Sivakumar and Sridevi and helmed by Devaraj and Mohan. But the film failed to make waves as he expected at the box office.

The same year, Rajini starred in the Telugu film *Chilakamma Cheppindi*, in his first lead role, and the film was eventually remade in Tamil as *Nizhal Nijamagirathu*. Then came the collaboration with arguably the second-most important director of Rajini's career, S.P. Muthuraman. Having made more than a dozen films before, he was precisely what an upcoming actor like Rajini needed and that's how *Bhuvana Oru Kelvi Kuri* (1977) happened. Rajini, who was till then playing mostly the anti-hero or a supporting role, began getting more lead-oriented roles after this film. The duo would go on to collaborate in films like *Priya*, *Aarilirunthu Arubathu Varai*, *Murattu Kaalai*, *Netrikkan*, *Pokkiri Raja* and *Velaikaran* – movies that cemented his position as not just an actor but also a bonafide star. But before that, the golden trinity of Rajini, Kamal and Sridevi came together for *16 Vayathinile*, the legendary filmmaker Bharathiraja's debut film, in which Rajini played the evil Parattai. The same year, he also starred alongside Vishnuvardhan in the Kannada film *Sahodarara Savaal*, helmed by K.S.R. Das with whom he would do more Telugu and Kannada films like *Kiladi Kittu* and *Annadammula Savaal*.

Super star: Rajinikanth fans celebrate the release of 'Jailer' in Mumbai in 2023. FILE PHOTO

Right after Rajini and Muthuraman's second venture *Aadu Puli Attam* was out, the actor teamed up with veteran filmmaker P. Madhavan (known for classics such as *Dheiva Thaai*, *Vietnam Veedu* and *Thanga Pathakkam*) for *Shankar Salim Simon*. Speaking of iconic directors, Rajini also worked with *Pasi*-fame Durai for *Aayiram Jenmangal*. In his unstoppable ascent, Rajini also got to collaborate with legendary filmmakers like C. V. Sridhar (*Ilamai Oonjal Aadukirathu*, *Thudikkum Karangal*), Bhimsingh (*Iraivan Kodutha Varam*), T. R. Ramanna (*Kuppathu Raja*), Muktha Srinivasan (*Polladhavan*, *Sivappu Sooriyan*), K. Vijayan (*Viduthalai*) and A. C. Tirulokchandar (*Vanakkatukuriya Kathaliye*).

At the same time, he also starred in screenwriter-turned-filmmaker Mahedran's debut flick *Mullum Malarum*, with whom he would go on to work in *Johnny* and *Kai Kodukkum Kai*. He made his Malayalam debut with I. V. Sasi's *Allauddinum Albhutha Vilakkum*.

An underrated filmmaker Rajini collaborated with often during the late 70s and early 80s is R. Thyagarajan with whom he made films like *Thai Meethu Sathiyam*, *Annai Oru Aalayam*, *Anbukku Naan Adimai* and *Ranga*. Another collaborator who rarely gets his due credit is *Vikram* filmmaker Rajasekhar who teamed up with Rajini in films like *Thambikku Entha Ooru*, *Padikkadavan*, *Maaveeran*, *Mappillai* and *Dharma Durai*.

A star is born

It was in the mid-80s that he made his first and only film with cinematographer-turned-director Balu Mahendra, *Un Kannil Neer Vazhindal*, right before teaming up with his favoured Muthuraman for the actor's 100th film, *Sri Raghavendrar*. Rajini's film with Rajasekhar, *Maaveeran*, is also touted to be the first Tamil film to be shot in 70 mm film format. Even Manobala, known to today's generation as a late actor-comedian, helmed Rajini in the film *Oorkavalan*.

It was in 1988 that Rajini starred in his first and only English film, *Bloodstone*, directed by American filmmaker Dwight H. Little who went on to helm films like *Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers* and *Tekken*. In 1990, Rajini made his first collaboration with director P. Vasu for *Panakkaran* and the duo would go on to work on hits like *Mannan*, *Uzhaippali* and *Chandramukhi*.

In his last leg of doing the rounds of Bollywood, Rajini teamed up with veteran producer K. C. Bokadia's directorial ventures *Phool Bane Angaray*, *Insaniyat Ke Devta* and *Tyagi*. He also joined hands with *Agneepath* filmmaker Mukul S. Anand's *Khoon Ka Karz*. After films like *Andhaa Kaanoon*, *John Jani Janardhan* and *Dosti Dushmani*, Rajini's last collaboration with veteran filmmaker T. Rama Rao was the 2000 film *Bulandi*. A Hindi remake of the hit Tamil film *Nattamai* was the actor's last Hindi film appearance.

The birth of a superstar

If the 80s cemented his position in the industry as a star, it was the 90s that made him the 'Superstar'. Rajini made a splash in 1991 with *Thalapathi*, his only collaboration with Mani Ratnam. The next year saw him teaming up with Balachander's erstwhile assistant Suresh Krissna for *Annaamalai*. The two would work on films like *Veera*, *Baba* and the cult classic *Baashha*. The late 80s and the early 90s were also when Rajini did his final films with established directors he previously worked with. *Kodi Parakkuthu* with Bharathiraja, as well as *Pandian* with S. P. Muthuraman, turned out to be box office duds.

But the younger crop of filmmakers like Suresh Krissna and P. Vasu made certain Rajini's rise to superstardom never halted. In 1995, Rajini joined hands with another major filmmaker who was instrumental in the actor's career, K.S. Ravikumar. After a fantastic start with *Muthu*, the two would team up for *Lingaa* and another cult hit, *Padayappa*.

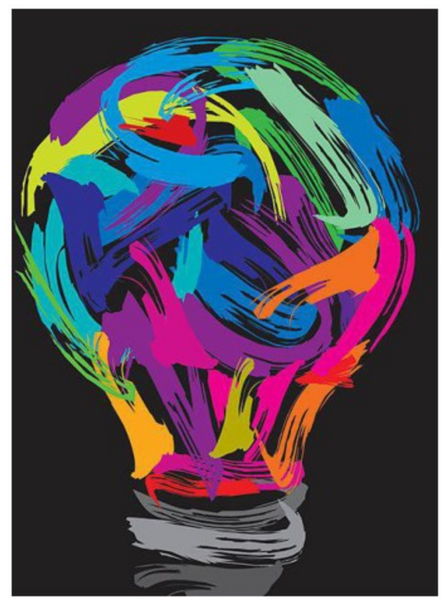
After a break of three years, post the *Baba* debacle, Rajini returned with the hit flick *Chandramukhi* and two years later, he made his first film with director Shankar, *Sivaji: The Boss*. Once again, it wasn't a one-off. The duo would go on to do *Enthiran* and its sequel *2.0*, both incredible successes.

Nurtured to nurturing

It's in the mid-to-late 2010s when Rajini started collaborating with the latest crop of filmmakers defining Tamil cinema. After *Kabali* with the then two-film old Pa. Ranjith, Rajini would reunite with him for *Kaala*. He also worked with his 'fanboy' Karthik Subbaraj in *Petta* and a couple of years ago, worked with Nelson on *Jailer*.

It is scarcely believable that after 170 films, Rajini continues to headline his movies, with thoughts of retirement or taking on supporting roles seemingly out of the picture. That's certainly great news for his fans who have spanned generations. From being a newbie who got to work with some of the best filmmakers in the country, to now working with a young crop of directors who grew up watching his films, Rajini's tryst with such a distinguished list is something very few – such as his friend and peer Kamal Haasan – could experience. Of course, the list of people who were instrumental in his illustrious career would include veterans such as Panchu Arunachalam, RMV, Kalaignanam and many more but it had to take someone with grit and perseverance to build himself a career that others could only dream of – and Rajini did precisely that.

While fellow stars of the industry take a year or even more to complete a project, Rajini, who will turn 75 this year, has already completed the second schedule for his next film, *Jailer 2*. It reminds me of a line from one of his iconic speeches where he called himself a horse that would leap to its feet immediately after a fall and not an elephant that takes its own sweet time. Let this horse prance along forever.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Why are you so late? The movie starts at 6: 30."

"I'm sorry. But I went to the local MLA's meeting."

"How was his speech? Was it any good?"

"He was hooted down as soon as he began."

"He was 'booted' down?"

"Not 'booted down', but 'hooted down.' 'Hoot' rhymes with the words 'shoot', 'loot' and..."

"....'boot'. But what does it mean?"

"When you 'hoot down' someone who is making a speech you 'force them to stop performing by making loud noises at them.' The Vice-Chancellor was hooted down by the students."

"In movies sometimes it is the good politician who is hooted down by the public."

"It doesn't happen just in movies. It happens in real life as well. Here's another example. Last week some of the nation's top scientists who tried to speak at a rally were hooted down."

"This is not first time that scientists are being hooted down. It has..."

"... it is not the first time. You always need the definite article 'the' before ordinal numbers "

".... ordinal numbers! What's that?"

"First, second, third, fourth, fifth and so on and so forth. They are called ordinal numbers."

"What about one, two, three, four, etc? What are they called?"

"They are called cardinal numbers. Anyway, as I was saying, whenever you use an ordinal number, you have to use the definite article. For example, this is the fourth cup of coffee that I'm drinking this morning."

"I've been to Agra three times. The third time I was there, I saw the Taj under the moonlight.""

"Must have been beautiful. I have seen Tendulkar bat five times. The first time I saw him, he scored a duck."

"We'd better get moving. Otherwise we're going to be late for the movie. Oh, by the way, I've invited Rahul to join us."

"Being a freeloader I'm sure he gladly accepted the invitation."

"A what?"

"A freeloader is someone who 'eats and drinks at someone else's expense'. For example, Rahul is a freeloader, but he is a lot of fun."

"Can I say during the marriage season one finds a lot of freeloaders in the dining hall?"

"That's an excellent example! They say one finds a lot of freeloaders hanging around politicians and film stars."

"Talking about film stars, I've paid eighteen rupees to see my favourite one. Shall we make a move?"

"Most definitely!"

Published in The Hindu on May 14, 1996.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Miss World competition will be held in Hyderabad in the month of May. Here is a quiz on the popular yet controversial event held annually

Abhinaya.K

QUESTION 1
Originally intended to be a one-off event, the pageant began in 1951 and was the brainchild of a British entertainment promoter. It was made into an annual event after a rival competition was created in the U.S. Name the founder of the U.K. event. Also identify the name of the U.S. event.

QUESTION 2
Who was the first person who won the competition and who won the competition last year? Name the countries they represented.

QUESTION 3
The competition was previously held in India in 1996 and the production company of a big Bollywood star was in-charge. Where was it held? Also identify the actor.

QUESTION 4
_____ took part in the competition and was the runner up in 1986. _____ also took part in the competition and made it to the finals. Both the actors are Academy Award winners and have also appeared in Bond films. Identify them.

QUESTION 5
India has the most number of Miss World titles. Name all the awardees in order.

Visual question:
Jennifer Hosten made history in the Miss World competition in 1970. Why was it a historic victory?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The famous name by which revolutionary Nguyen Sinh Cung is known. **Ans: Ho Chi Minh**
2. The name of the organisation that led the guerrilla war against the U.S. **Ans: Viet Cong, also known as the National Liberation Front**
3. The communist leader who negotiated the Paris Peace Accords with Henry Kissinger. **Ans: Le Duc Tho**
4. Name the General who led the victory at Dien Bien Phu against the French. **Ans: General Vo Nguyen Giap**
5. The name of the trail used by North Vietnamese forces to transport troops and supplies into South Vietnam. **Ans: Ho Chi Minh Trail**
Visual: The name of the photographer. **Ans: Nick Ut**
Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Sadhan Panda| Varghese Joseph| Ashutosh Gupta| Arvind Tillway

Word of the day

Travail:
use of physical or mental energy; hard work

Synonyms: effort, exertion, sweat, dig, grind, labour, toil

Usage: *I want to save him from great sorrow and travail.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/travailpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /tʊəˈveɪl/, /ˈtʊævˌeɪl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

metroPLUS

Tuning In
Varijashree Venugopal.
SUDHAKARA JAIN

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

In the groove

Varijashree's first single, 'Jaathre', from her upcoming album, *Vari (The Live Sessions)*, is out

Sreemathy Bhat E
sreemathy.bhat@thehindu.co.in

For Varijashree Venugopal, the stage has been a second home since the age of four. "Music runs in my blood," says the Grammy-nominated musician. With the release of her first single 'Jaathre (Live)' from the album *Vari (The Live Sessions)*, Varijashree reflects on her musical journey so far.

"This album is a spin-off to my previous album *Vari*, which was released last year. That was my first original music album," she says. "After we played a few live concerts, we decided to record and film the sound and energy of the performance."

Top of the crop

The upcoming album is a live performance curation of seven selected songs from *Vari*, arranged for a six-piece band, of which 'Jaathre' is the seventh track. "The song is quite dear to the team," she says. "We received a lot of lovely responses, especially for this song."

On the choice of the term *jaathre*, which generally refers to a village carnival, Varijashree explains, "This song is a meeting between the Carnatic raga Hemavathi and Indian grooves. We always enjoy playing it live." The album, Varijashree says is more than a project. "It is a memory that documents the entire journey."

Live energy is so different from what is produced and recorded, says Varijashree. "It has to be condensed, restructured, and formatted into a live group set." The band was directed by Grammy-winning artiste Michael League and includes a stellar lineup of musicians including Pramath Kiran (percussions and co-arrangement), Jayachandra Rao (mridangam), Apoorva Krishna (violin), Vivek Santhosh (keys and synths), and Praveen Rao (harmonium).

Firm foundation

Varijashree describes her relationship with music as 'organic' and considers herself lucky to have been raised in an atmosphere that turned her passion into a profession.

"Both my parents are musicians. That is where it started, and I am blessed to have such a strong foundation in Carnatic music."

Apparently responding to music when she was 18 months old, Varijashree says, "I've been told that I would repeat musical phrases, even though I couldn't speak properly. By the age of four, I was giving little stage performances."

A curious student of music, Varijashree says her willingness to explore beyond boundaries has helped her constantly rediscover her voice. "I believe an artiste's growth lies in how much they are ready to reinvent and experiment."

This latest project is the result of that mindset, Varijashree says. "It's a way of expanding while staying rooted in our Indian classical structure." Her exploration has led her to jazz and vocal-instrumental styles, where the voice acts like an instrument. "That fascinated me."

Joint effort

On working with Michael League, she says, "I love his child-like passion. Michael is contributing to the history of music development in many ways. When we met, we realised we had similar instincts. He is quite open to learning different musical cultures."

Having had the honour of meeting some of the most brilliant musicians from different cultures, Varijashree says they have connected over a single thread – our passion for music. Even if we're from different geographical spaces, we are all traveling the same path. The universe has a beautiful way of bringing like-minded people together."

'Jaathre' (Live) was released in April this year, and the album Vari (The Live Sessions) *is set to drop on June 20 under the label GroundUp Music.*

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A BG-BGE

Veerashaiva-Lingayats to seek separate religion code in national Census

The idea of separate religion status for Lingayats had been a widely debated issue ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

Veerashaiva-Lingayats, who are contesting the population data in the 2015 Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, are set to seek a separate religion code for the community in the national Census that may commence in 2026.

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha will petition the Centre for a religion code. The executive committee of the mahasabha will meet soon and draft the contents of the petition.

The idea of a separate religion status for Lingayats had been a widely contested issue ahead of the 2018 Assembly elections in Karnataka.

Though the Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha has been seeking a separate religion code for the community for decades, the Jagathika Lingayat Mahasabha, which spearheaded an agitation in 2017, sought a separate religion tag for "Lingayats."

The caste census survey which began in 2015 has put the population of Veerashaiva-Lingayats at about 66.35 lakh of the 5.98 crore surveyed in Karnataka.

Then Ministers in Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Cabinet, M.B. Patil and Vinay Kulkarni, were part of the campaign.

While the demand for separate religion has come from both groups, the difference is over the nomenclature, a Veerashaiva mahasabha source explained, cautioning that the differences could crop up again with the Veerashaiva mahasabha set to seek a separate code for "Veerashaiva-Lingayats."

In 2011, separate codes were assigned to Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Sikhism, Jainism, and Buddhism. There was a separate column for "other religions and persuasions". Ahead of the 2001 and the 2011 census too, the Veerashaiva mahasabha had petitioned the Centre seeking the religion code.

But after being denied the same, the community members, through a "jana jagruthi jatha" were asked to write "Veerashaiva-Lingayat" in the column meant for "others" instead of identifying as Hindus, Veerashaiva mahasabha sources said.

"Seeking a separate religion tag is not new. The Veerashaiva mahasabha in its 1940 conference at Kumbakonam had passed a resolution seeking separate religion tag for Veerashaiva-Lingayats and petitioned the British government. Our record shows that even before the 1971 census, a similar demand had been made," Veerashaiva mahasabha secretary H.M. Renuka Prasanna said.

The 2015 survey conducted by the commission, headed by H. Kantharaj, has put the population of Veerashaiva-Lingayats in Karnataka to be about 66.35 lakh of the 5.98 crore surveyed, or about 11% of the State population.

The Veerashaiva mahasabha has disputed the figure and claimed its number to be far higher – around 18% to 22% of the State population.

The 2026 Census will now be another measure for the population. The Veerashaiva-Lingayats are the dominant land-owning community in North and central Karnataka, and seen as politically powerful too, though it is part of Backward Classes Category 3B in the current OBC classification.

Apart from a sizeable population of broader Veerashaiva-Lingayat community spread across Karnataka, the Veerashaiva mahasabha is counting on the community's considerable numbers in neighbouring Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Telangana.

Groups want implementation of caste census report to be put on hold till Centre's exercise

Sharath S. Srivatsa
K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The Union government's announcement of a caste census along with the general Census seems to have come as a boost for the influential Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities that have been disputing their population numbers in the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, done by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes, and opposing the implementation of its report.

The Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha and the Vokkaligara Sangha, which are demanding a resurvey rejecting the 2015 report as "unscientific", are now arguing that the State government should wait for the Union government's caste census to conclude.

This may play a key role again in pushing the implementation of the 2015 survey report in Karnataka to the back-burner, even as the report was tabled in the State Cabinet a decade after the survey, multiple sources in the State government said.

"We believe a national census will provide a realistic picture of our community. The State government should wait for the national caste census, as all communities, including Veerashaiva-Lingayats and Vokkaligas, would benefit from the same. This should come with a promise to revise the matrix if the national caste census throws up different proportions of population of any community in the State.

> We believe a national census will provide a realistic picture of our community. The State government should wait for the national caste census
>
> **H.M. RENUKA PRASANNA,** Secretary, Akhila Bharatha Veerashaiva Mahasabha

> The report has been tabled in the State Cabinet and I have asked all Ministers to give their opinion in writing. Once the Ministers come back, we will further discuss the issue
>
> **SIDDARAMAIAH,** Chief Minister

However, there was a "trust deficit" created regarding the survey being exploited to political ends in the two influential communities.

However, former members of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes have argued that the proposed national caste census and Karnataka's survey are distinct. "We do not know whether the national caste census will include a socio-economic educational survey. The commission carried out the survey to identify backwardness of communities and not just numbers," said K.N. Lingappa, a former member of the commission.

Meanwhile, B. Kenchappa Gowda, president, Vokkaligara Sangha, said that the caste census by the Union government is an opportunity to "set right injustice" done to some communities in the State survey. The 2015 survey pegs the population of Veerashaiva-Lingayats at 11% and of Vokkaligas at 10.29% of the State's population.

When quizzed over the future of Karnataka's caste survey, in light of the Union government announcing a caste census, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah was noncommittal on Thursday. "The report has been tabled in the State Cabinet and I have asked all Ministers to give their opinion in writing. Once the Ministers come back, we will further discuss the issue," he said.

A senior Minister in the State said that if there was political will, the reservation matrix could be revised based on the Karnataka's survey, as all

Give reservation proportional to the population: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, welcoming the Union government's decision to carry out a caste census along with the general Census, said that it was high time the 50% cap on reservation was removed and communities be given benefits of affirmative action proportional to its population. He also added that a caste census was not enough and only a socio-economic and educational survey along with it will help understand the ground reality and help increase reservation beyond 50%.

Crediting Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for "compelling" the Union government to take up the caste census, he said the exercise, if coupled with a socio-economic and educational survey, will help bring several communities to the mainstream. He demanded that the government immediately take up the exercise and finish it within a fixed timeline.

Hitting back at Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw who announced the Cabinet's decision saying the Congress was opposed to the caste census and that State governments were not authorised to conduct caste census, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that the Union government was only following the State government.

He also accused the BJP of always being "anti-social justice" and said even now the caste census announcement seemed aimed at the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls.

He also hit back at Union Minister and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy for welcoming the caste census. "He is now singing praises of the Union government, while he opposed it in the State. During the coalition government when OBC Welfare Minister C. Puttarangashetty fixed the date to accept the caste census report, Mr. Kumaraswamy, who was Chief Minister, threatened to sack him and ensured the report was not submitted," he said.

Clarify status on State report, BJP urges Siddaramaiah

Mallikarjun Kharge

R. Ashok

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Maintaining that only the Centre has authority to conduct a caste census, the BJP in Karnataka has urged Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to clarify about the status of the caste census report prepared by his government.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Thursday, Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok termed the State's caste census report as "unofficial". He said the Centre's caste survey would be used by the Election Commission, but the State's caste census report will end up in the "trash bin."

He accused Mr. Siddaramaiah of trying to use the report for political gain as he faces the risk of losing power.

Stating that the Congress government's caste census report in Karnataka was released 10 years after it was conducted in 2015, Mr. Ashok said people were wondering about its fate now as the Centre would be conducting an "authentic survey."

Hailing Prime Minister Narendra Modi for his decision to include caste enumeration as part of the general Census, Mr. Ashok challenged the Congress to give reasons for not conducting a national-level caste census when it was in power at the Centre.

It also alleged that a proposal for caste census had been rejected when Manmohan Singh was the Prime Minister.

Contradicting this claim at a programme in Bengaluru, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge stated that the UPA government initiated a socio-economic caste census in 2010, when Dr. Singh was the Prime Minister. "But the BJP that came to power later didn't release that report. Rahul Gandhi repeatedly highlighted it. In 2023, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister, urging him to initiate a caste census and add it as a component in the general Census format. But the Union government ignored my letter. The BJP and Mr. Modi want to take credit for initiating this caste census, therefore they ignored our previous appeals," he said.

DKS warns BJP against disrupting rallies

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

D.K. Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president, has warned the BJP against disruption of its rallies and events.

"In a democracy, everyone has a right to protest. But the BJP is resorting to cheap tactics like infiltrating our party rallies and raising insulting slogans. If the BJP does not mend its ways, we will give it an appropriate political response," he said, at the 'Save Constitution, Save Nation' rally in Hubballi on Thursday.

AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge advised Congress leaders to forget personal differences and fight against divisive forces. "It is time for us to fight unitedly against the authoritarian rule of the Union government and their functioning," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

OBITUARY

Mr. S.K. Babji (46)
Supervisor - Printing, The Hindu,
Visakhapatnam passed away on 01-05-2025.
D.No. 19-59, Swathantranagar, Madhurawada, Kommadi, Visakhapatnam - 530048.

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT, BANGALORE

PLAINTIFF: **O.S. No. 494/2014**

Sri. Vaitheeswaran. S/o. T. Shanmugam, Aged about 52 years, R/a No.224, Knott Wood Road, North Edmonton, CANADA - T6 KIY 4
Represented by his **G.P.A. holder- Smt: HEMALATHA,** D/o. Sri M. Shanmugam, Aged about 32 years R/A No.3 (Old), New No.7, Valleeswarer Koil Street, Mylapore , Chennai- 600 004

V/S

DEFENDANTS: Aparna & others

SUIT SUMMONSES TO THE DEFENDANT NO'S. 5, 8 & 9 U/O V RULE 20 C.P.C.1908

THE DEFENDANT NOS. 5, 8 & 9

D-5:- Sri V. Suresh, S/o Venkatesh, Aged about 41 years, R/o No.95, St. Anthony's School Road, Rama Murthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016
Also at: **C/o C.P. Maheswara Reddy,** # 169, 8th cross, 10th Main, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 038

D-8:- Sri Muniswamy Naidu, S/o late Yengaiah Naidu, Major, R/o No.122, Medihalli, Bidharahalli Hobli, Virgonagar Post, Banglaore-560 049

D-9:- Sri Kiran Kumar, Father's name not known to plaintiff, Major, C/o C.P. Maheswara Reddy, # 169, 8th cross, 10th Main, Indiranagar, Bangalore-560038

Whereas the Plaintiff above named has instituted the above suit before the **IV ADDITIONAL. SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT, BANGALORE** against the defendants for Declaration, Mandatory injunction, Possession and for other reliefs with respect to the suit schedule property viz.,

SCHEDULE 'A' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.12, Katha No. 22/4/45/1-A, property No. 45/1A, situated at Seegehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under KR. Puram, CMC Limits, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 45 feet, and North to South 40 feet, in all measuring 1800 sq.ft.** and bounded on:

East by: 30 feet Road, West by: Site No.11, North by: Site No.13, South by: Site No.9

SCHEDULE 'B' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.12, Katha No. 22/4/45/1-A, property No.45/1A, situated at Seegehalli Village, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under K R Puram, CMC Limits, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 5 feet, and North to South 18 feet, in all measuring 90 sq.ft.** and bounded on:

East by: Schedule D Property, West by: Site No.11
North by: Schedule 'C' Property, South by: Site No.9

SCHEDULE 'C' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.12, Katha No.22/4/45/1-A, property No.45/ 1A, situated at Seegehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under KR. Puram, CMC Limits, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 5 feet, and North to South 22 feet,** in all measuring 110 sq. ft. and bounded on:

East by: Schedule 'E' Property, West by: Site No.11
North by: Site No. 13 belonging to the GPA holder of the Plaintiff herein,
South by: Schedule 'B' Property

SCHEDULE 'D' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.12, Katha No. 22/4/45/1-A, property No.45/ 1A, situated at Seegehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under KR. Puram, CMC Limits, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 40 feet, and North to South 18 feet, in all measuring 720 sq. ft.** and bounded on:

East by: 30 feet Road, West by: Site No.11,
North by: Schedule 'E' Property, South by: Site No.9

SCHEDULE 'E' PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Site No.12, Katha No.22/4/45/1-A, property No.45/1A, situated at Seegehalli Village, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, now comes under KR. Puram, CMC Limits, Bangalore, measuring **East to West 40 feet, and North to South 22 feet, in all measuring 880 sq.ft.** and bounded on:

East by: 30 feet Road, West by: Schedule 'C' Property
North by: Site No.13 belonging to the GPA holder of the Plaintiff herein
South by: Schedule 'D' Property

You are all the Defendant No's. 5, 8 & 9 in the above suit, hereby Summoned/ Noticed / directed to appear before the this Court, **IV ADDITIONAL SENIOR CIVIL JUDGE, BANGALORE RURAL DISTRICT, BANGALORE,** either in person or by a Pleader duly instructed to appear on your behalf to defend you and the said suit is posted on **07/07/2025 at 11.00 am**

Take suit summonses/notices that in default of your appearance on the said day of hearing the above suit will be heard and determined in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Court on this the **16th day of April 2025** at Bengaluru.

ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
Sri G.R. ANANTHARAM, Advocate,
No.87(Old), New No. 13, 5th main, N.R. Colony, Bangalore- 560 019
Ph: 080- 26602375

BY ORDER OF THE COURT,
CHIEF MINISTERIAL OFFICER
Senior Civil Judge Court,
Bengaluru Rural Dist.
BENGALURU

E-mail.ID-sectcrb_2006@yahoo.co.in ; Tel/Fax – 0671-2301751/2302751

Government of Odisha

Corrigendum to Bid Identification No.CCE.Ctc.(R&B)17/2024-25

Tender Reference - CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 17/2024-25

The Bid availability period and Date of opening of the tenders have been modified due to unavoidable circumstances. The modified dates are as follows:-

Sl. No.	Bid Identification No.	Bid Availability period as per Tender Notice	Revised Bid Availability Period	Bid Opening Date as per Tender Notice	Revised Opening Date
1	CCE.Ctc.(R&B) 17/2024-25	03.04.2025 to 05.30 Hours of 17.04.2025	03.05.2025 to 05.30 Hours of 17.05.2025	19.04.2025 at 11.00 Hours	19.05.2025 at 11.00 Hours

All other terms and conditions remain unchanged. Further details can be seen from the website **htpp://tendersodisha.gov.in.**

Chief Construction Engineer, Cuttack (R&B) Circle

B-74: OIPR-34012/11/0033/2526

Government of Odisha, "e"- Procurement Notice
INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)
Bid Identification No. C.C.E.Dkl.(R&B)01/2025-26

Letter No.892/ Dt.25/04/2025 Email Id- sedklpwd@gmail.com

The Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal on behalf of Governor of Odisha invites Percentage Rate bids in double cover system to be received in ONLINE MODE from eligible contractors for construction of Building works as detailed below:

1. Name of the work : **Building works.**
2. No of works : **02 (Two) Nos**
3. Estimated Cost : **Rs.3.96 Crore to Rs.5.05 Crore (as given in column No.03 of table)**
4. Cost of tender paper : **Rs.10,000.00**
5. Class of contractor : **'A' Class (as given in column No.07 of table)**
6. Period of Completion of work : **07 (Seven) to 09 (Nine)** Calendar months **(as given in column No.08 of table)**
7. Date and time of availability of bid Document in the website : From Dt.**03.05.2025** to **5.00 P.M. of Dt.17.05.2025**
8. Date of opening of bid : Dt.**19.05.2025** at **11.00 A.M.**

The bidders have to participate in ONLINE biding only, further details can be seen from the e- Procurement Portal : **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**. Any addendum / corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website.

Chief Construction Engineer, Dhenkanal (R&B) Circle, Dhenkanal

B-63: OIPR - 34132/11/0028/2526

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, RAYAGADA.
Email ID-ccerwcrayagada@gmail.com

Letter No. 659/W.E./ Date: 22.04.25

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

1. Name of the Work : **Construction & Maintenance of road works for the year 2024-25. (11 Nos)**
2. Class of Contractor : **"B" & "A"** (Odisha PWD) or relevant class of other licensing authority.
3. Estimated Cost : **Varies from Rs.138.33 Lakhs to Rs.322.07 Lakhs (Approximately)**
4. Details projects as per Annexure attached :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender online for bidding From	Availability of Tender online for bidding To	Last Date & Time of seeking tender clarification	Date & Time of opening of tender Technical Bid	Date & Time of opening of tender Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada	**NCB-09/ RWCRGDA/ 2025-26**	**Dt. 08.05.2025 at 11.00 A.M.**	**Dt. 23.05.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.**	**Dt. 22.05.2025 Up to 5.00 P.M.**	**Dt. 26.05.2025 at 11.00 A.M.**	**Will be intimated later**

5. The details of works can be seen from the web site : **https://www.tendersorissa.gov.in**
6. Any Corrigendum / Addendum will be displayed in the above e-tender web site.

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Rayagada.

O-87 : OIPR-25196/11/0009/2526

ODISHA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
19, Dr. P.K.Parija Road, Cuttack

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Notice No.2832/PSC dated 30.04.2025

FOR EMPANELMENT AS SUBJECT EXPERTS

The Commission has decided to create and maintain a panel of Subject Experts from amongst the retired/serving Professors/ Associate Professors/ Readers/ Assistant Professors/ Lecturers under State Governments/ State / Central Universities/ Govt. of India and Retired Judicial Magistrates/ Law Officers to assist the Commission as Evaluators/Examiners for Descriptive Answer Papers of different subjects of the Competitive Examinations conducted for recruitment to Civil Services/ Legal Services and for other posts/services in Group 'A' and Group 'B' of the Govt. of Odisha.

The Commission invites applications from the willing persons for the same.

Interested persons may kindly refer to the Commission's Website **http://www.opsc.gov.in** for detailed information and mode of application. The last date of submission of the CV (Biodata) is **15th May, 2025**.

Secretary

D-: OIPR-12002/11/0197/2526

Bengaluru lakes are dry, but experts say it is a good time for rejuvenation

According to BBMP data for April, the city's lakes, with a collective storage potential of 31,505.48 million litres, are holding 10,980.01 million litres that is roughly 35% of their full capacity

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

A recent de-weeding operation at Bengaluru's Madiwala lake revealed a startling amount of submerged waste, including a double-door refrigerator. Meanwhile, residents around Mailasandra lake in the city have long been fighting against encroachment and pollution issues and demanding immediate and effective lake rejuvenation efforts. Amidst all these concerns, as the summer heat intensifies, more than 50 of the city's 183 lakes maintained by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) have dried up, with lake water levels plummeting to just an average of 35%.

While this has raised concerns about groundwater scarcity and environmental degradation, lake experts and conservationists suggest that the seasonal drying of lakes is not only natural, but also beneficial for the health of these water bodies. What is worrying is not the seasonal drying up but the continued pollution.

The dried-up Hulimavu lake in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

Current water storage

According to BBMP data for the month of April, the city's lakes, with a collective storage potential of 31,505.48 million litres, are holding 10,980.01 million litres, that is roughly 35% of their full capacity. This steep decline has affected groundwater recharge, especially in neighbourhoods near dried-up lakes. In the Mahadevapura zone, for instance, 19 out of 50 lakes have run dry, leaving only 2,110.43 million litres in reserve from a total capacity of 9,493.35 million litres. The situation is similar in the Yelahanka zone, where 12 of 27 lakes are dry, and current water levels stand at 4,276.61 million litres, less than half of their 9,214.08 million-litre capacity.

In the R.R. Nagar zone, 12 of 33 lakes have dried up, with 393.59 million litres remaining out of a total storage capacity of 3,032.31 million litres. Dasarahalli zone has seen half of its 12 lakes run dry, leaving only 140.62 million litres available from a possible 1,740.31 million litres.

The South zone's seven lakes currently hold 911.56 million litres of water, well below their full capacity of 1,339.26 million litres. In the East zone, two out of five lakes have dried up, and the remaining ones are storing 2,725.10 million litres out of a potential 4,882 million litres. The West zone, which has only two lakes, is in a relatively better position, with 351.07 million litres of water available from a total capacity of 453.12 million litres.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Vijaykumar Haridas, Chief Engineer for the BBMP's Lake Department, said most of the lakes have dried up due to the summer heat. "Around 53 out of the 183 BBMP lakes have dried up due to the weather conditions in the city right now. It may affect groundwater levels, but will not lead to scarcity at this point. It is normal for lakes to go dry in the summer and they will be replenished once the monsoon arrives. This is a good time for us to rejuvenate the lakes and focus on lakes that need more attention. The Hulimavu lake is one among the 53 lakes that has dried up completely, and major rejuvenation work is happening at the lake, which will be completed by the end of May," he said.

"Out of the 183 lakes the BBMP looks after, 136 lakes are already fully developed and do not require any extra work this summer. We will have to do rejuvenation work for the remaining 47 lakes, which will be a work in progress. For now, we will focus on lakes that need immediate rejuvenation," he added

The Madiwala lake. FILE PHOTO

Haridas said that controlling sewage flow into the lakes is one of the major processes in rejuvenation of lakes. "We will construct sewage diversion flows to make sure it does not affect the main water body. The most important component of rejuvenation is desilting and conservation of wetlands. The wetland is a small water area close to the lake where water comes in first and held at the area. This wetland lets the water rest for a while and helps suspend solid particles settle at the bottom, after which the clean water on top of the wetland will enter the lake. Fencing, bund formation, pathway and plantation development are also part of rejuvenation," he explained.

Many of Bengaluru's lakes are seasonal by design, and their annual drying allows for natural cleansing, sediment oxidation, and the regeneration of aquatic life

According to experts, many of Bengaluru's lakes are seasonal by design, and their annual drying allows for natural cleansing, sediment oxidation, and the regeneration of aquatic life once the rains return, making it a crucial part of the ecosystem's rhythm rather than a crisis.

Raghavendra B. Pachhapur, senior lead projects of ActionAid Association and a well-known lake conservationist said, "Lakes drying up should not be seen as a negative sign. It is a reset when the summer is at peak. Everything goes dry, organisms die and there is a new start during the monsoon," he added.

Pachhapur said that the BBMP should take this opportunity to rejuvenate lakes. "The BBMP has constraints in its funds and cannot do much on the rejuvenation front. They can currently focus only on a few lakes. As lakes have dried up, they can focus on clearing silt. The authorities during this time must focus on constructing suspension ponds around the lakes during this period. Suspension ponds are 10% of the land of the larger lake that absorbs all the storm water and suspends solid waste that comes inside the lake. But most lakes in Bengaluru do not have these suspension ponds," he observed.

Varying depths

The lake conservationist said that this is also a good opportunity for the BBMP to make varying depths in lakes. "The BBMP usually while rejuvenating makes a flat lakebed to retain more water through out the year, but during summers it goes completely dry. However, having varying depths in lakes, i.e. one side higher and the other lower, help save some water. When water reduces during summer, a small amount of water is retained in the lower side of the lake that can help smaller organisms or birds to continue feeding from the lake as 70% of the biodiversity depends on shallow water," he explained. Pachhapur added that the BBMP must also make provisions to divert rainwater directly to the lakes. "Most lakes are in the lower areas, that are also surrounded by residences. Whenever it rains, lower areas lose a lot of rainwater, and the majority of the water goes into the storm water drains that are mixed with sewage. If there are provisions to make pure rainwater directly enter lakes, this will help in the rejuvenation of lakes and increase groundwater levels for the rest of the year," he said.

Pachhapur added that lakes filled with water from sewage treatment plants (STP) like Dorekere lake, Uttarhalli lake and others, need immediate attention as the quality of the water is not up to the mark, and the fate of these lakes have been stuck between the BBMP passing the baton to the BWSSB and vice versa.

'Dignity of labour applies only to societies where equality is the norm'

Even if you are a Dalit and you think some other subcaste is lower to yours, you are just practising a 3,000-year-old system, says Bezwada Wilson

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Only if we can come out of the mindset of finding joy in being superior to another person can we overcome the caste system, says Bezwada Wilson, co-founder and National Convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA.)

"Even if you are a Dalit and you think some other subcaste is lower to you and feel happy about it, you are just practising a 3,000-year-old system," he said, speaking at Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment (ATREE) as part of the intersectionality series.

He argued that similar is the case with patriarchy too and that men of most communities consider women lower to them.

The Magsaysay award winner further noted that considering oneself as inferior to someone else was equally dangerous.

"The scavengers feel that they are inferior to everybody else in this country because they have to clean, carry and dispose of human excreta and garbage. But in other countries who are doing similar work, people don't feel the same way because of dignity of labour."

'The scavengers feel that they are inferior to everybody else in this country because they have to clean, carry and dispose of human excreta and garbage,' says Bezwada. FILE PHOTO

However, he noted that the concept of dignity of labour shouldn't be applied in the Indian context to ask someone to clean another person's toilet.

"Only when you are able to understand and attain an equal society can you bring up the dignity of labour. We are unfortunately far away from it," he said.

Fighting caste-based occupation

In 1993, the Employment of Manual Scavengers and Construction of Dry Latrines (Prohibition) Act,1993 prohibited the construction of dry toilets and employment of manual scavengers to clean them.

Wilson noted that despite the prohibition the practice continued in several parts of the country in the years that followed unhindered.

In 1994, Wilson founded the SKA along with activist Paul Diwakar and former chief secretary of Tripura S.R. Sankaran to document continuing scavenging practices and fight against it.

"S.R. Sankaran was with Safai Karmachari Andolan for 18 years. We were determined to destroy caste-based occupation. S.R. Sankaran, who was born as a Brahmin, was the chairperson. We shouldn't be adamant that only a Dalit should lead, and others should be kept away. We cannot again practise the caste system in our organisations and discriminate people by caste names," he said.

Bezwada Wilson. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Pursuing justice

In 2003, SKA, 18 other civil society organisations, and a few individuals and manual scavengers filed Public Interest Litigation in the Supreme Court naming all states and government departments of Education, Judiciary, Defence and Railways as violators of the Manual Scavenging (Prohibition) Act. "You can't always expect justice to come to you. Try to take a step to go and stand by the side of justice," he said.

Wilson noted that the case helped to create awareness around the issue and made officials answerable to manual scavengers for the first time. However, he pointed out that in states such as Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and Jammu & Kashmir, dry latrines still existed and women continued cleaning them.

"After so many years of independence and despite being a democratic country how can this continue?" he questioned. To address this issue, SKA would launch a campaign in the said states, he said.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1975

Detenu Under MISA Ordered to be Released

Bangalore, April 30: Mr. Justice D.M. Chandrasekhar and Mr. Justice M.K. Srinivasa Iyengar, constituting the Vacation Bench of the Karnataka High Court, directed the release of Sri Panduranga Shetty of Sarjapur, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, detained under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act.

It was alleged that on January 2, this year the detenu was allegedly smuggling 60 bags of rice in a lorry from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu. The District Magistrate had ordered the detention of Sri Panduranga Setty. The detention was challenged in the High Court by Smt. Jayamma, wife of the detenu. Their lordship said that one of the material facts about the ownership of the rice had not been communicated to the detenu and he was denied the opportunity of making an effective representation against the order of the detention..

Bus Set on Fire in Mine Area

Robertsonpet, April 30: The strike by the workers of the Bharat Gold Mines Ltd, demanding revision of wages, entered its 31st day to-day.

The police acted well in time on Monday to save a Karnataka State Road Transport bus from being burnt near Five Lights in the Nandidurg mine area. Some miscreants stopped a bus which was on its way to Robertsonpet, made the passengers get down and poured kerosene on the driver and the bus and tried to set fire to them. But the driver escaped. Thereafter, the bus was set on fire, but the police rushed to the spot and put out the fire by throwing sand on it.

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

IN SHORT

Teaching cleanliness with magic

Swachh Mangaluru Abhiyan led by Ramakrishna Mission includes magic shows on the cleanliness themes. Over 250 magic shows conducted were aimed at students. According to the mission, they have reached about two lakh students. A performance shows huge pile of garbage taking the shape of a demon called 'Kasasura'.

Weekly cleanliness drive a hit

The weekly cleanliness drive -- Swacch Mangaluru Abhiyan – witnessed participation of a number of students in Mangaluru for over five years. It also drew a number of volunteers from various professions. The drive also covered cleaning, painting and beautification of bus shelters and drawing art on compound walls, pillars of highway flyovers.

Shredder at waste management plant

Mangaluru City Corporation will install a shredder at its solid waste management plant at Pachchanady soon to manufacture cocopeat from the fibre of tender coconut shells. Cocopeat is used as manure. Installing a shredder and creating associated facilities will cost about ₹30 lakh, according to the Commissioner Ravichandra Naik.

Waste collection in the coastal city

Over 200 tonnes of solid waste is generated in the jurisdiction of Mangaluru City Corporation daily. This includes 120 tonnes of wet waste and 80 tonnes of dry and sanitary waste. If wet and sanitary wastes are collected daily, dry waste is collected twice a week. The corporation has asked people to hand over sanitary waste separately.

Scanning QR code at doorstep

Mangaluru City Corporation recently asked its pourakarmikas collecting solid waste from doorsteps to scan the QR code installed outside the houses using the 'Mangaluru Smart City' app installed on their smart phones. When scanned, the Integrated Command Control Centre gets an intimation about collecting solid waste from doorsteps.

Blackspots resurface showing all is not well in solid waste management in Mangaluru

Blackspots have gone up, but the civic Commissioner maintains that the corporation has not been receiving complaints from people about garbage not being lifted

Raviprasad Kamila
MANGALURU

A roadside blackspot in front of the busy KSRTC bus stand in Mangaluru greets visitors, showcasing the sorry state of affairs in solid waste management in the coastal city. The blackspot on the corner of Bejai-Kuntikana Road in front of the bus stand now mocks Mangaluru City Corporation (MCC), which once bagged a series of awards for maintaining cleanliness among urban local bodies in India.

Blackspots across 60 wards of the corporation have gone up in the past one year. Ravichandra Naik, Commissioner, MCC, says, "The civic body has identified 60 major blackspots for installing CCTV cameras to prevent people from dumping waste in public places."

Mangaluru once took pride in bagging the third rank among 476 cities in India in the Swachh Survekshan Survey of the Union Government. The civic body received 'India's best city in solid waste management' award in 2018. Mangaluru was among the 23 cities selected in the country for the 2018 national award under different categories. Later it also bagged the Green Leaf Award and Solid Waste Management Icon Award for best solid waste management (SWM).

A blackspot behind the Infosys building, near the zilla panchayat office at Kottara in Mangaluru. H .S. MANJUNATH

Sanitation ranking drops

Glaringly, the sanitation rating of Mangaluru drastically dropped to 253rd among 446 cities in the country in the survey in 2023.

Incidentally, the black spots are on the rise notwithstanding Ramakrishna Mission (mutt) of Mangaluru, on the call of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, undertaking citizen-driven Swachh Mangaluru Abhiyan twice. If the first phase, the campaign was held from January 30, 2015, to 2019. The second phase went on for a year from October 1, 2023.

The first phase focused on cleaning roads and the surroundings. The focus of the second phase was on visiting houses and creating awareness on the proper disposal of domestic waste by segregating.

Ranjan Bellarpady, the coordinator of the mutt and the campaign, told *The Hindu* that the first phase of the weekly drive held on 200 Sundays covered 20 lakh man hours. "Awareness programmes on wet waste management reached three lakh houses. In addition, cleanliness education was imparted to 25,000 school children. The mission also reached 15,000 college students through workshops," he said.

Mr. Bellarpady added, "About 53,000 kg of waste was removed from public places in the second phase of the campaign through 12 cleanliness drives (one per month). The initiative brought together 4,426 volunteers who planted 1,400-plus saplings across the city. About 5,000 households were reached out to in the second phase educating them on waste segregation."

In spite of a number of awareness programmes conducted over the years, by the mission and other voluntary organisations prior to 2015, black spots have returned in the same places, and in new places.

Segregation lags behind

The Commissioner blamed the rise in black spots on people not segregating the waste as wet, dry and sanitary. "When people did not segregate waste, the corporation workers did not lift the mixed garbage from the doorsteps. Then people dumped them in public places," he said.

"Now we have begun imposing a penalty for non-segregation of waste, starting with hotels. It will be extended to houses and other establishments," the Commissioner said hoping that it might help in containing black spots. Each hotel found not segregating waste was imposed a penalty of ₹5,000. The civic body has also begun distributing handbills asking people to segregate waste, he said.

Bellarpady and Umanath Kotekar, general secretary of Ambamaheshwari Seva Trust, which voluntarily monitors segregation of waste in Mangaladevi, Bolar, and Hoige Bazar wards since late 2023, said that waste collecting vehicles of the corporation do not collect garbage from all areas, adding to the blackspots.

A blackspot at Bejai in front of KSRTC bus stand. H.S. MANJUNATH

Kotekar added, "After MCC switched over from contract-based SWM system to self-managed system over six months ago, it does not have supervisors to monitor waste collection at doorstep. It has got only eight health inspectors who practically can not monitor the waste collection in all wards."

But the Commissioner maintained that the corporation has not been receiving complaints from people regarding garbage not being lifted.

Not concurring with this, Bellarpady said that the office of Ramakrishna Mutt gets calls from people regarding the garbage not being lifted. "People call the office as the mutt was actively involved in the cleanliness drive for about six years," he said.

A rare initiative

Kotekar said that when the trust intervened to join hands with the MCC for better SWM, its volunteers visited 5,800 houses of about 8,000 houses (including apartments) in three wards since December 2023, creating awareness on waste segregation. Some RWAs did not allow the volunteers to visit the apartments.

A blackspot at Yekkur on the busy National Highway 66. H.S. MANJUNATH

"We found that about 500 houses were not segregating waste. People of those houses told us that even if they segregated waste, the corporation transported it with mixed waste. On the other hand, the corporation workers blamed people for not segregating waste. The blame game resulted in blackspots," he said.

After the intervention of the trust, all 500 houses segregate waste, he said adding that the trust randomly monitors waste segregation in those houses even now. "Mangaladevi, Bolar, and Hoige Bazar wards are now free of blackspots to an extent of 90%,"Kotekar said adding that now the trust has extended its awareness drive to three more neighbouring wards - Port, Cantonment and Attavar. "Field visits of our volunteers have just begun by initially approaching commercial establishments," he said.

Revanth of Kottara said that the corporation should collect the dry waste at least four days a week to prevent people from dumping them in public places. Though the corporation claims that dry waste is being collected twice a week, in reality in some places like Kottara, Urwa and Chilimbi, it is being collected only once a week. The production of dry waste is on the rise in all households due to the changing lifestyle of people and marketing of products through attractive packaging by manufacturers and outlets. Hence, the civic body should not give scope for the accumulation of dry waste in homes. In some instances, members of some voluntary organisations kept a vigil at blackspots, caught those who dumped the waste there red-handed, and returned the waste to the homes and establishments that dumped them. The aim was to discourage dumping waste in public places. Yet, the dumping continues.

Helpline sought

Bellarpady said that to free the city from blackspots, the corporation should open a helpline with a dedicated phone number which people can call if garbage is not collected, or if a blackspot is created.

A team will have to be formed for clearing blackspots immediately. The team will have to be in touch with the councillor of respective ward, health inspector and supervisor of waste collection.

Kotekar said that if the corporation involves local people in the ward level to make people understand on the need for segregation and monitors the collection seriously, creation of blackspots can be prevented.

Cleared during the Swachh Mangaluru Abhiyan, a major blackspot at Yekkur Junction on the National Highway 66 and such spots in other areas like in Bunder, at the entry to the Old Port, at Kodical, near the zilla panchayat office in Kottara have resurfaced, revealing that all is not well in SWM of the MCC.

INBRIEF

Collapsed temple wall built in just five days, says contractor

Lakshmana Rao, the contractor, who had executed the construction of the wall which collapsed claiming seven lives at the Simhachalam Temple in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, said he did the work in just five days, reportedly under pressure from the officials as the annual Chandanotsavam festival, which draws thousands of devotees, was around the corner. The wall caved in following a downpour and strong winds on Wednesday.

Smuggled gold worth crores seized at Hyderabad airport

The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) seized 3.5 kilogram of smuggled gold worth ₹3.45 crore at the Rajiv Gandhi International Airport in Hyderabad on Wednesday. An Indian passenger from Dubai and two airport ground staff were arrested. Officers from the Hyderabad zonal unit intercepted the passenger while attempting to pass the contraband to a member of the airport's ground handling crew. All three have been remanded to judicial custody.

CPI(M) leader flays 'hasty arrest' of rapper Vedan

The case against Kerala rapper Hirandas Murali, aka Vedan, has become a point of contention within the ruling Left Front, with CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan throwing his weight behind the artist. Vedan is a sensation among the youth for the subaltern themes in his songs. Mr. Govindan demanded an inquiry into the "hasty arrest" for possessing what was believed to be a leopard tooth. "The serious case against him seems like disproportionate action," he said.

Vizhinjam port set to boost South Asia's maritime trade

PM Narendra Modi to dedicate the project to the nation today; the seaport will have an AI-driven control room; the new port is expected to reduce India's dependence on international facilities

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Vizhinjam International Seaport, an all-weather port which is poised to be a pivotal hub for India's maritime transshipment, will script a new history in the annals of Indian maritime trade on Friday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicating the ambitious port project to the country by 11 a.m. Leveraging cutting-edge technology, the Vizhinjam port is expected to be a game-changer in South Asia's maritime trade.

The Prime Minister arrived at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport on Thursday evening to officially commission the project. The formal commissioning of the port will be attended by Kerala Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, Union Shipping Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Ministers of State George Kurien and Suresh Gopi, State Ministers, Opposition Leader and others.

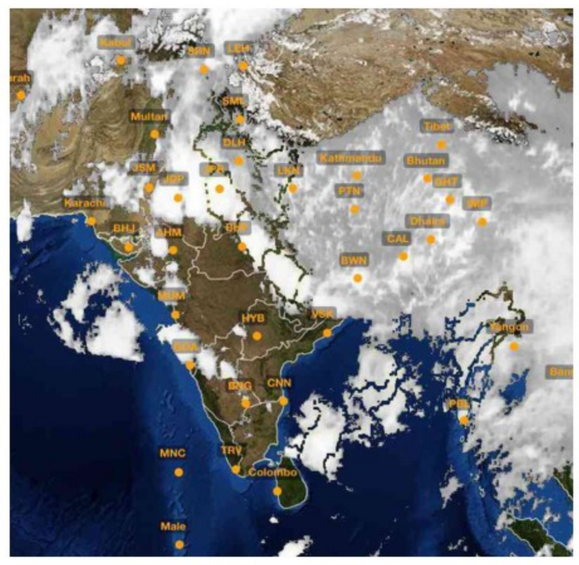
Cordial welcome: CM Pinarayi Vijayan receiving PM Narendra Modi in Thiruvananthapuram on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGAMENT

Armed with an AI-driven control room and Vessel Traffic Management System (VTMS) developed by IIT-M and Maritime Technology Pvt Ltd, the port could track ships approaching the port using radar and sensors, providing real-time location and movement updates to nearby vessels and optimising port traffic flow and berthing assignments.

The port is also expected to reduce the dependence of the country on other international ports. Around 75% of the country's transshipment cargo is being handled at international ports, resulting in a loss of up to $200-220 million of potential revenue each year, rendering the Indian industries vulnerable to an increase in costs, potential inefficiencies and congestion issues, and creating long-term risks for India's trade competitiveness.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Thunderstorms accompanied with gusty winds very likely at isolated places over West Bengal, Odisha, Jharkhand, Uttarakhand, Punjab, and Himachal Pradesh. Hot and Humid conditions very likely at isolated places over Andhra Pradesh, , Kerala, Tamil Nadu, and Puducherry.

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	34.8	24.6	Kozhikode	3.0	33.6	25.4
Ahmedabad	—	43.5	26.6	Kurnool	0.8	40.6	28.2
Aizawl	—	31.4	20.0	Lucknow	—	36.4	25.6
Allahabad	—	39.3	26.0	Madurai	—	38.0	26.5
Bengaluru	—	33.7	25.0	Mangaluru	3.0	33.7	25.0
Bhopal	—	41.6	24.5	Mumbai	—	34.1	26.5
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	23.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	35.2	25.0	New Delhi	—	37.7	26.0
Chennai	—	34.5	28.2	Patna	0.7	30.7	23.2
Coimbatore	—	36.3	26.0	Port Blair	1.0	32.0	24.3
Dehradun	—	34.2	22.0	Puducherry	—	36.1	26.5
Gangtok	—	17.7	12.7	Pune	—	38.6	26.0
Goa	—	35.3	25.2	Raipur	—	38.4	24.7
Guwahati	—	25.6	21.9	Ranchi	—	33.8	20.6
Hubballi	—	39.0	22.0	Shillong	0.4	21.0	15.0
Hyderabad	—	37.8	25.6	Shimla	—	27.0	19.1
Imphal	2.2	26.3	19.3	Srinagar	—	29.2	13.3
Jaipur	—	40.8	28.2	Thiruvananthapuram	0.7	33.0	26.6
Kochi	3.0	32.8	27.0	Tiruchi	—	37.7	27.6
Kohima	11.0	26.6	16.2	Vijayawada	—	37.4	25.4
Kolkata	7.0	34.4	23.4	Visakhapatnam	5.0	34.2	24.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.16	..41	.18	...168	...132	
Bengaluru	...8	4	.20	44	...113	
Chennai	.15	..—	122	14	18	
Delhi	..—	..57	.12	...139	...131	
Hyderabad	.11	..15	.36	52	...101	
Kolkata	...6	..49	.17	86	89	
Lucknow	.10	..10	.41	...175	...103	
Mumbai	.62	..—	.14	34	78	
Pune	.42	..10	100	...233	.....—	
Visakhapatnam	...9	..24	.23	56	...102	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Meghalaya recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 311 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Cuddalore, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 24.

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

PM to relaunch Amaravati project today

The Hindu Bureau
AMARAVATI

Preparations for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Amaravati on Friday to relaunch the capital city construction works have been completed.

Confirming this after inspecting the arrangements at the main venue, a delegation of Ministers, who included Payyavula Keshav (Finance), P. Narayana (Municipal Administration and Urban Development), Kollu Ravindra (Excise), and Nadendla Manohar (Civil Supplies), told the presspersons on Thursday that they reviewed the onsite progress with the officials.

Mr. Keshav said that all arrangements had been finalised. In view of the summer heat, Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had issued instructions to ensure that the attendees from across the State faced no discomfort.

"Accordingly, extensive arrangements are being made," he added. "An officer has been assigned for every bus bringing the attendees, with a supervisory officer overseeing every 25 buses. Food, drinking water, and other necessities will be provided – breakfast before departure, lunch en route, and dinner after the event. Special medical teams will be on standby," he said.

Sense of ownership

Mr. Keshav further added the event was being organised in a way that instilled a collective sense of ownership over the capital project, with a message that 'Amaravati is our capital'.

Mr. Narayana said residents of 29 villages had voluntarily parted with 34,000 acres of land for Amaravati's construction. "We are ensuring their significant participation in the historic occasion. The capital project is expected to greatly improve the economic condition of the locals," he said.

Mr. Ravindra alleged that the previous YSRCP government had disrupted the project with its three-capital proposal. "Now, we are reinitiating the Amaravati capital works," he said.

Mob lynching in Mangaluru: Inspector and two constables suspended for negligence

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Mangaluru Police Commissioner Anupam Agrawal has suspended three policemen for alleged negligence in not reporting immediately to senior police officers about the mob lynching at the venue of a cricket match near Kudupu, in Dakshina Kannada on April 27.

Mangaluru Rural police inspector K.R. Shivakumar, head constable P. Chandra, and constable Yellalinga have been suspended. Mr. Chandra is in the special branch of the Mangaluru Rural Police Station while Mr. Yellalinga is a constable in the same police station. Mr. Yellalinga's beat includes the place where 35-year-old Ashraf was lynched to death by around 25 persons.

In the order dated May 1, Mr. Agrawal said questioning of the arrested persons and other people on April 29 revealed that soon after the mob lynching by cricketers and spectators, a man named Deepak alerted the police. The police asked the caller to dial 112 and give the information.

Despite having prior information about mob lynching, Mr. Shivakumar did not inform senior police officers who visited the spot on April 27.

Unnatural death case

The inspector then made use of the persons, who are accused of lynching, as complainant and witnesses to register a case of unnatural death. Subsequently, a case of mob lynching was registered. Mr. Agrawal has made a similar observation in the orders passed against Mr. Chandra and Mr. Yellalinga.

The trio has been suspended pending initiation of disciplinary proceedings by the department. They have been instructed not to leave the headquarters without permission from seniors.

The action by Mr. Agrawal follows criticism by district in-charge Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao, district Congress chief K. Harish Kumar, and district secretary of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) Muneer Katipalla over the delay on the part of police in taking note of the mob lynching incident.

Twenty arrested

The police have so far arrested 20 of the 25 persons allegedly involved in the fatal assault.

May Day march

Members of various trade unions taking part in a rally to mark the International Labour Day in Bengaluru on Thursday. PTI

RTC bus driver suspended for offering 'namaz' on duty

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Northwestern Karnataka Road Transport Corporation (NWKRTC) has suspended, till further inquiry, a bus driver on the charge of indiscipline and dereliction of duty. He is facing the charge of stopping his bus to offer 'namaz' on Wednesday.

NWKRTC Haveri Divisional Controller has issued an order suspending A.R. Mulla, alias Nayaz Mulla (Hangal depot), for stopping the bus on the Vishalgad-Hangal route around 5.30 p.m. and offering 'namaz' in the seat behind the driver's seat.

A senior officer will inquire into the incident. Till the inquiry is completed, the driver-cum-conductor will remain suspended. He is eligible to claim 50% of his salary.

On Wednesday, images and videos of Mr. Mulla stopping the bus on the Hangal-Vishalgad route to offer 'namaz' were shared on social media.

This prompted Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy to instruct NWKRTC officials to probe into the incident. "Needless to say, staff on duty in government service must follow certain rules and regulations. Every person has the right to religious freedom. Those in public service can practice their religious rituals but not when they are on duty. Stopping a bus packed with passengers in the middle of a journey to offer namaz is objectionable," the Minister wrote.

"Care should be taken to ensure that such incidents do not recur in the future," the letter stated.

30-year-old murder accused hacked to death in Mangaluru

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

A 30-year-old man, who was the main accused in a murder in Surathkal in 2022, was hacked to death at Bajpe in Mangaluru on Thursday night. The city police have set up checkposts and intensified patrolling after the incident.

Suhas Shetty

Fazil's death

The police gave the name of the victim as Suhas Shetty. He was the main accused in the murder of 23-year-old Mohammed Fazil, a resident of Mangalwarpete in Katipalla, who was killed in front of a shop in Surathakal on July 28, 2022. Fazil was murdered two days after the killing of BJP worker Praveen Nettaru.

In a statement, the police said on Thursday night Suhas was travelling in a vehicle along with his friends, Sanjay, Prajwal, Anvith, Latheesh, and Shashank. Around 8.30 p.m. the vehicle was intercepted by group of assailants who came in a car and a pickup vehicle.

The assailants, around six persons, attacked Suhas with sharp weapons, which caused grievous injury. He was rushed to a nearby hospital where he succumbed. A case was registered at the Bajpe Police Station. Multiple teams were formed to nab the accused. The Mangaluru city police are committed to ensuring swift justice and maintaining law and order, the police said.

A large number of people, including former MP Nalin Kumar Kateel, visited the mortuary of the hospital, where the Suhas's body was kept.

Accused in many cases

Suhas was an accused in five criminal cases, including two murder cases, in Mangaluru city and Dakshina Kannada district police limits. Of the five cases, he was convicted in one and acquitted in two cases. Trial was on in the two murder cases, the police said.

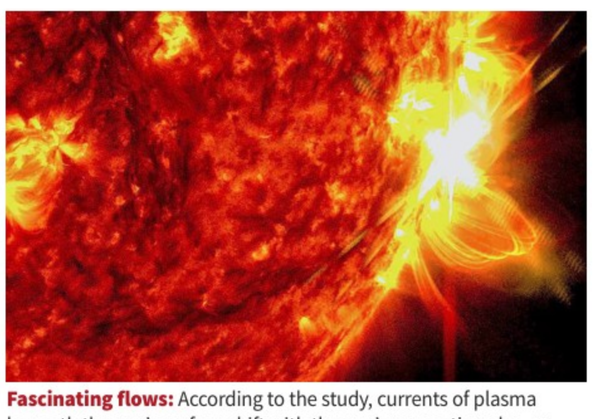
IIA team charts shifts in plasma beneath solar surface that could influence earth

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An international team of solar physicists led by the Indian Institute of Astrophysics (IIA) have traced giant tides of plasma beneath the sun's surface at a region called near-surface shear layer (NSSL).

According to a study published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, the plasma's currents shift with the sun's magnetic pulse and could have a far-reaching influence on space weather and the earth.

"The near-surface shear layer (NSSL) extending to about 35,000 km in depth is a critical region beneath the sun's surface. It is marked by distinct rotational behaviours that vary with depth and changes, over space and time, that relate to active region magnetic fields and the solar cycle," said the Department of Science and Technology.



Fascinating flows: According to the study, currents of plasma beneath the sun's surface shift with the sun's magnetic pulse. AP

Apart from IIA, researchers from Stanford University, U.S., and the U.S. National Solar Observatory (NSO) have traced how these hidden shift over time, potentially reshaping our understanding of solar dynamics in general and how the sun's interior connects to its outer magnetic behaviour in particular.

Fascinating patterns

The analysis led by Professor S.P. Rajaguru and PhD student Anisha Sen from IIA revealed fascinating patterns – surface plasma flows converge toward active sunspot latitudes, but reverse direction midway through the NSSL, flowing outward to form circulation cells.

"These flows are strongly influenced by the sun's rotation and the Coriolis force – the same force responsible for the spin of hurricanes on the earth," the department said.

"The localised flow patterns we observed matched the global trends – confirming both surface inflows and deeper outflows," said lead author Ms. Sen. The findings give a better understanding of how the sun's magnetic activity is linked to its internal flows and hint that something mysterious is lurking in deeper layers of the sun that truly drives its global dynamics.

Turn and churn

A caste census should not be allowed to ossify social segmentation

The Centre's decision to include caste enumeration in the next national Census marks a sharp departure for the ruling BJP from its previous position. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had in 2024 targeted the Congress election manifesto promise of a caste census as a reflection of its 'urban Naxal' thinking. During the general election last year, BJP leaders had asked the people for a massive Lok Sabha majority to remodel the Constitution. This promise of a constitutional overhaul was seen by OBC and Dalit groups as a threat to dismantle caste reservations, and partly explains why the BJP fell short of an electoral majority. In 2015, the RSS chief's call for a debate on caste-based reservation led to setbacks for the BJP in the Bihar Assembly elections. The Maharashtra and Haryana Assembly election victories in 2024 suggested that the BJP's plank of Hindu unity, and its resistance to caste-based politics, continued to retain electoral salience. But, as it turns out, the BJP was probably unsure of its electoral ground and feared or sensed an undercurrent in favour of caste census that it could no longer politically ignore, particularly in Bihar which will vote later this year.

It is now a race to claim credit. The BJP and the Opposition have accused each other of undermining social justice. National formations, which include the BJP, the Congress and the Left, have historically taken an ambiguous, if not hostile, view towards caste claims. Subaltern parties that mobilised OBC and Dalit groups in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar displaced all national parties from these States in the 1990s. The BJP responded by turning more inclusive towards the OBCs, that has culminated in its continuing electoral dominance since 2014. The Congress, under Rahul Gandhi, started espousing caste justice, in a remarkable turn in the party's history. Apart from a caste census, Mr. Gandhi now seeks the removal of the 50% ceiling in reservations, and an expansion of reservation in private educational institutions. Though there is no evidence yet that the Congress has or will make electoral gains from the new stirring, it is evident that the BJP is worried. The counting of castes and communities unleashed social forces in colonial India that continue till date, and a comprehensive caste count, the first since 1931, is set to unmake and remake many political and social realities. A caste census would not automatically result in reservation according to population figures, which is obnoxious; as Article 16(4) of the Constitution makes it clear, special provision for reservation in favour of any backward class can be made only if such community is inadequately represented in public services. A caste census should not be allowed to ossify social divisions, but only used to better target benefits of affirmative action.

New friends

India is making efforts to isolate Pakistan in the Islamic world

Amidst the shock over the Pahalgam terror attack, the resultant diplomatic measures against Pakistan and the likelihood of a military escalation, New Delhi's attempts to strengthen ties with three of Pakistan's closest allies may have been missed. But support from Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan will be important to building India's case against the perpetrators. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was in Jeddah when he received news of the attack. Although he cut short his visit, he discussed the attack at some length with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The joint statement recorded their strong condemnation of the attack, rejecting any attempt to "link terrorism to any particular race, religion or culture". The wording marks the strongest such language used and is the culmination of the process begun in 2006 with the India-KSA Delhi Declaration, followed by the 2010 Strategic Partnership agreement that turned the compass in the Saudi Kingdom on terrorism. In 2012, Saudi authorities assisted India in securing the arrest of Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal, an LeT Indian conspirator being tried for the 26/11 attacks. The assistance marked a turnaround in ties, given the Kingdom's history of funding Islamist extremist groups at madrasas in Pakistan and other countries. Ties have now been transformed with technological cooperation and the promise of $100 billion Saudi investment.

With the UAE, India has made strides in cooperation, boosted by the signing of the Strategic Partnership in 2017, and at least six visits by Mr. Modi, leading to a stark turnaround since the 1990s, when India pleaded unsuccessfully for the extradition of Dawood Ibrahim and in intervening in the 1999 hijack of flight IC-814. In April, New Delhi rolled out the red carpet for Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, Crown Prince of Dubai and the UAE's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, cementing ties with a country that has been one of Pakistan's closest backers. Finally, this week saw a surprise visit to Kabul by the MEA's point-person for Pakistan-Afghanistan-India and a meeting with Taliban acting foreign minister Muttaqi as well as a "categorical condemnation" by the Taliban of the Pahalgam killings – a far cry from the Taliban's past in targeting Indian interests in Afghanistan in collaboration with Pakistani agencies and terror groups. It would not be pragmatic to assume a full change of heart with the Taliban, but the support against terrorism is bound to be one more pressure point on Pakistan. The salutary impact of well-timed diplomacy in turning around ties with countries that had refused India cooperation three decades ago is noteworthy.

Reviving a far-sighted but forgotten Bill mechanism

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Private Member's Bills (PMBs) are a mechanism through which Members of Parliament (MP), who are not Ministers, can propose their own legislation. In India's parliamentary system, most laws are introduced by the government, drafted by Ministries and tabled by Ministers. In contrast, PMBs come from individual MPs, both ruling party or the Opposition. In each session, Fridays are usually reserved for discussion on PMBs. PMBs are perhaps the last remaining intervention wherein MPs are not strictly guided by party mandate.

However, this crucial intervention has steadily eroded. Frequent disruptions, pre-emptive adjournments, and the increasing prioritisation of government business have reduced the PMB to a symbolic gesture rather than a serious legislative exercise. Ignoring the PMB is a procedural lapse and also signals a democratic backslide.

PMB trends, 17th and 18th Lok Sabha

Since Independence, only 14 PMBs have been passed and received presidential assent and none has cleared both Houses since 1970. In the 17th Lok Sabha (2019-24), 729 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha and 705 in the Rajya Sabha. However, only two in the Lok Sabha and 14 in the Rajya Sabha were ever discussed.

In the 18th Lok Sabha, only 20 MPs have introduced PMBs so far. During the inaugural and Budget Sessions of 2024, 64 PMBs were introduced in the Lok Sabha, but not a single one was discussed.

In the winter session, two Fridays in the Lok Sabha were lost to disruptions, while another was taken up by a general discussion on the Constitution. Even in the Budget Session, the first Friday, usually reserved for private members, was used for discussions on the Union Budget. Only one Friday in the Lok Sabha saw any private member business-related activity, and even this was limited to a resolution. In the Rajya Sabha, out of 82 PMBs listed during the Budget Session, only 49 were introduced on a single Friday, and discussion began on just one, only to be cut short as the House was adjourned *sine die*.

PMBs have long provided a platform for MPs to introduce pieces of legislation that reflect personal convictions, constituency demands, or emerging social needs, regardless of party affiliation.

A notable example is the 'Right to Disconnect' Bill introduced by Supriya Sule of the Nationalist Congress Party, in the Lok Sabha on October 28, 2019. The Bill proposed granting employees the legal right to disengage from work-related communication beyond official working hours, addressing the increasing intrusion of work into personal life in the digital age. Though it did not proceed beyond the initial stage, the Bill sparked an important national conversation on mental health, work-life balance, and labour rights in a hyper-connected economy. It exemplifies how PMBs can be vehicles for forward-looking and unconventional ideas.

> The Private Member's Bill has the potential to be a gold mine for India's legislative landscape

In contrast, some PMBs have had a more tangible legislative impact. In 2014, Tiruchi Siva of the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (Rajya Sabha), introduced the 'Rights of Transgender Persons Bill. On April 24, 2015, the Bill made history by becoming the first Private Member's Bill in over four decades to be passed by the Rajya Sabha. Though it did not clear the Lok Sabha, it laid the groundwork for the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019, introduced and passed by the government. This Bill is a powerful reminder of how private initiatives can shape the legislative agenda and compel government action on socially sensitive issues.

PMBs also offer space for MPs from the ruling party to express independent thought. Bharatiya Janata Party MP Gopal Chinayya Shetty's Bill calling for free medical and health-care facilities to the senior citizens in all Government and private hospitals is an example. His intervention demonstrates that even Treasury Bench MPs, often bound by government priorities, can use PMBs to introduce legislation based on personal insight or constituency feedback.

Shrinking space for independent action

One cannot overlook the institutional changes that have contributed to the reduced space for individual legislative initiative. The 52nd Constitutional Amendment, which introduced the Anti-Defection Law through the Tenth Schedule, aimed to ensure political stability. However, it has also had the unintended effect of limiting the ability of MPs, particularly the Treasury Benches, to independently question or deviate from their party's legislative agenda. In such a structured environment, the PMB remains one of the few avenues through which MPs across party lines can suggest constructive policy alternatives.

While voters in India may cast their ballots for candidates contesting on party symbols, their choices are often equally influenced by the individual's integrity, expertise and track record within the constituency. MPs are elected not solely to reiterate the party's position, but to serve as a voice for the aspirations and concerns of their constituents.

To safeguard the PMB process, a series of procedural and structural reforms must be considered.

Reforms to pursue

The first is the need to treat the time earmarked for PMBs as sacrosanct. Amendments to the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business should explicitly protect this time from being overridden, except in cases of a national emergency. Dedicated hours for PMBs must not only be preserved but also enforced with consistency, enabling meaningful debate and potential adoption of the PMB.

Parliament could consider instituting a review committee specifically for PMBs, responsible for screening Bills for quality, relevance, and constitutionality. It could even recommend a priority list for discussion based on public importance and cross-party support. A fast-track mechanism may also be introduced for high-impact or broadly supported Bills to reach the floor in a time-bound manner.

In instances where the government feels constrained by time to transact its own legislative business, it should consider extending the overall working hours of Parliament, rather than encroaching upon the Fridays reserved for PMBs. The working hours in both Houses typically run from 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., which includes a lunch break. A modest extension, even by an hour or two, would significantly improve the productivity of Zero Hour and Question Hour, while ensuring that PMBs remain undisturbed. With the prospect of delimitation and a likely increase in the number of MPs in both Houses, the urgency of reform is greater than ever.

One compelling reform that could be adapted from international practice is the Ten-Minute Rule of the U.K. Parliament – any MP can make a short speech of up to 10 minutes in support of a PMB along with its introduction after which another MP may oppose it for an equal length of time. This allows Bills to be introduced, heard, and recorded without long time slots. Adopting a similar provision in the Indian context, either as an addition to or as a substitute for existing PMB procedures, could create a channel for a greater number of legislative ideas to enter the public domain.

The Vice President of India/Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Jagdeep Dhankhar, has laid emphasis on the role of private member's business in deepening democracy. He described PMBs as "far-sighted, forward-looking, and a gold mine" for India's legislative landscape. These are words that reflect both the value and the potential of this mechanism when nurtured with sincerity.

China's strategic push — Asia ties amid tariff tensions

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The President of China, Xi Jinping's three-nation tour of Southeast Asia (April 14-18, 2025) to Vietnam, Malaysia, and Cambodia, had one goal: to pitch Beijing as the only reliable partner of choice. Facing what is at the moment a 145% tariff on Chinese exports imposed by the Trump administration, China is actively recalibrating its external economic engagement, especially in geographies where it enjoys strategic proximity and relatively receptive partners.

This Southeast Asia outreach is not just routine diplomacy. It is a considered move by Beijing to mitigate external economic pressure, project stability, and cement its leadership narrative in the Indo-Pacific. The visit also comes in the wake of the "Central Conference on Work Relating to Neighbouring Countries" (April 8-9). This relatively rare workshop was attended by senior party leaders and underscored the importance of fostering a "community with a shared future" with neighbouring states.

As a buffer and bridge

China is keen to insulate itself from the ramifications of a deepening trade war with the U.S., which now extends beyond tariffs to export controls, technology bans and financial decoupling. In this context, Southeast Asia serves as a buffer and a bridge. It offers China resilient trade channels, manufacturing alternatives, and diplomatic partners to collectively push back against the narrative of de-risking or containment led by Washington.

Under U.S. President Donald Trump, Cambodia could face a combined tariff of up to 59% (including a 10% universal tariff and an additional 49% once a 90-day pause ends), while Vietnam and Malaysia would be hit with tariffs of 46% and 24%, respectively. Conversely, Mr. Xi's message was that China is open for business, supports multilateralism, and opposes unilateral coercion – a direct rebuttal to U.S. policies. In Vietnam, his meeting with key Vietnamese leaders resulted in the signing of 45 cooperation agreements. In Malaysia, discussions focused on enhancing economic cooperation and addressing regional security concerns. The two countries signed over 30 agreements, encompassing sectors such as the digital economy, artificial intelligence, agriculture and infrastructure development. The Cambodia visit (Mr. Xi's first since 2016), underscored China's role as Cambodia's largest investor and trading partner, with bilateral trade exceeding $15 billion in 2024. All these agreements, particularly the Funan Techo Canal project in Cambodia, are an effort to show that China continues to offer public goods and economic opportunities, while the U.S. pivots toward protectionism.

> Beijing's Southeast Asia outreach may complicate the U.S.'s efforts to build a coalition to isolate or deter China economically

To project a contrast

Beyond economics, the visit was also about ideological and normative competition as Beijing attempts to draw a contrast between its model of non-interference and economic engagement, and what it portrays as U.S. interventionism and ideological rigidity. This narrative particularly resonates in Cambodia, which has long been a close political ally of Beijing, and to a lesser extent in Malaysia, where the government has sought to mostly maintain a balanced foreign policy between major powers.

Mr. Xi's call to advance a code of conduct in the South China Sea, support for infrastructure development through the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), and lay an emphasis on cultural linkages are part of this soft power strategy. It seeks to recast China not just as a neighbour but as a normative leader in regional order-building, offering an alternative vision to the U.S.-led liberal international order.

The timing of this visit is politically significant. U.S. engagement with Southeast Asia has been episodic and often perceived to be reactive, despite Washington's measures to the contrary. The U.S.'s Indo-Pacific strategy is also often seen in parts of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as security heavy and narrowly focused on countering China. Mr. Xi's visit, in contrast, offers tangible deliverables: infrastructure projects, digital collaboration, trade facilitation, and security dialogues.

By visiting key ASEAN members, he also played into intra-ASEAN dynamics. For instance, the effort to deepen ties with Vietnam, traditionally wary of Chinese assertiveness in the South China Sea, is an attempt to reassure Hanoi. In Malaysia, China's emphasis on peaceful dispute resolution and BRI collaboration appeals to a government that is cautious about becoming a pawn in the U.S.-China rivalry. While Washington continues to emphasise security partnerships – through AUKUS (Australia, the United Kingdom, the U.S.), the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.), and bilateral alliances – China is doubling down on economic diplomacy, where the U.S. is perceived to have underdelivered. Initiatives such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity have been criticised for lacking market access incentives, in contrast to China's clear offers of investment and trade.

The larger picture

Moreover, Beijing's ability to present itself as an indispensable economic partner may complicate U.S. efforts to build a coalition to isolate or deter China economically. If Southeast Asia increasingly leans further towards economic interdependence with China, Washington will find it harder to operationalise a robust economic counter-strategy. Mr. Xi's Southeast Asia tour is a forward-looking strategy to entrench Chinese influence in the Indo-Pacific at a time of systemic flux. In the contest between the U.S. and China for regional primacy, this kind of diplomacy is calculated strategic positioning, with long-term implications for regional alignment, economic integration, and rule-setting.

Finally, this tour is also about domestic political signalling. For Mr. Xi, the ability to show that China is not internationally isolated, despite mounting western pressure, is crucial. The optics of warm receptions, economic deals, and strategic dialogues serve to buttress his authority at home and offset negative headlines around the economic slowdown or diplomatic frictions with the West. At the same time, they signal to the region – and the Global South at large – that China continues to be there for them to lean on. How receptive Southeast will be to Mr. Xi's outreach, despite Beijing's own unilateral tendencies, remains to be seen.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Census and caste

The Narendra Modi government's surprise decision to have a caste-based census in the middle of heightened tensions with Pakistan over the Pahalgam terror attack, and after fiercely opposing such a demand from the Opposition, only highlights the significance of caste dynamics in the electoral framework of Indian democracy. A caste census is important as it provides data essential for addressing social inequalities, ensuring equitable resource allocation and monitoring the effectiveness of affirmative action policies. One cannot wish away the reality that caste-based discrimination still exists in many regions of India despite laws making such discrimination punishable. That the decision has been announced with an eye on the Assembly elections in caste-dominated Bihar is to state the obvious. It is amusing that the BJP's top leadership has hailed the Prime Minister's decision as "historic".

The truth is that it was he who had repeatedly attacked the Opposition for their demand, accusing them of "spreading poison in society" in the name of caste and even calling them "urban Naxals".

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Canada-U.S. ties

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney's diplomatic and data-driven focus on long-term systemic reforms is a style that will meet the Trump's dispensation's combative, transactional, and short-term political driven moves. Mr. Carney could pursue parallel alliances with the European Union and Asia to hedge against U.S. unpredictability, even as Mr. Trump focuses on extracting short-term economic gains. Mr. Carney has to rely on nimble diplomacy.

R. Narayanan,
Navi Mumbai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

Has the Pahalgam attack crossed a red line?

Sharat Sabharwal

Former High Commissioner to Pakistan and author of 'India's Pakistan Conundrum: Managing a Complex Relationship'

Lieutenant General (Retired) Deependra Singh Hooda

Former Commander in Chief of the Indian Army's Northern Command who oversaw the surgical strikes across the Line of Control in 2016

PARLEY

The calculated brutality of the terror attack in Pahalgam in Jammu and Kashmir appears to have crossed a red line for India-Pakistan ties that were already at an all-time low. Following its diplomatic measures against Pakistan, what appropriate military response can India craft? Has the Pahalgam attack crossed a red line? Sharat Sabharwal and Lieutenant General (Retired) Deependra Singh Hooda discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Suhasini Haidar**. Edited excerpts:

The Prime Minister has said that he has given the military "a free hand" for operations. Pakistan's government has been saying every 24 hours that an attack is imminent. Given the indicators that a military option will be exercised next, would you say that all non-military options have been exhausted?

Sharat Sabharwal: There seems to be no diplomacy between the two countries at the moment. We know that some other countries, notably the U.S., have said that they are in touch with both sides and have urged them not to escalate matters. But what would it take for Pakistan to do something, which would be acceptable to our government, which would then move us towards de-escalation? There is nothing of that kind on the horizon. The government has to take into account the strong public sentiment on the issue, the record of what was done in 2016 (in Uri) and in 2019 (in Pulwama), (India's) surgical strikes and Balakot strike in response and the expectation now that there will be some finite action.

Lt Gen (Retd) Deependra Hooda: I think some non-military options are still on the table, such as international pressure, especially on Pakistan, to back off. But the statements coming from Pakistan, such as 'Indian blood will flow through the Indus', are very hostile. I don't see any give from the Pakistani side. Therefore, if there are no options left, then some sort of use of military force seems the only way forward.

I wouldn't read too much into the 'free hand' that has been given to the forces. Obviously, the military has always had a free hand in preparing for any action. In 2016, when we were planning the cross-border operation, the government didn't interfere at all in the planning. But the military cannot move when it wants. Whatever is contemplated must get political approval.

Would a Pakistani offer to assist with the investigation, as was the case in 2008 after the Mumbai attacks and then in 2016 after the Pathankot airbase attack, be de-escalatory?

SS: There has been no such offer [from Pakistan] this time. There is complete denial and there are belligerent statements being made. Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir is a hard-liner, going by his speeches and public pronouncements. After Pathankot, it was Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif who made the offer, but he was helpless in front of the Army chief, and [the investigation] went nowhere. In 2008, a lot of international pressure was built up on Pakistan, especially because nationals of other countries also got killed in the attacks (in Mumbai).

Are there lessons learned from responses in the past – 2008, 2016, 2019, etc. – when we think about the response that is to come?

SS: In 2008, there was no publicised punitive activity, but international pressure built up and resulted in Pakistan not only acknowledging that Ajmal Kasab was their national, but also ordering an investigation by their federal investigation agency. It was at this stage that I went as High Commissioner in April 2009. In June, [Pakistan] gave us a 30-page dossier, in which they acknowledged for the first and the last time that the attack was mounted from their territory and launched by the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT). And they gave us elaborate details of the training, of where the boat was launched, etc. They took seven people into custody and launched a prosecution in an anti-terrorism court, all of which offered us a way towards de-escalation. We resumed dialogue in March 2011. In 2012, we saw the lowest level of violence along the Line of Control (LoC) and in Jammu and Kashmir since the turn of the century. This is not something that necessarily offers us any options for today, as it is not clear whether Pakistan would be willing to admit what it did, or whether that will [alone] be acceptable to the [Modi] government.

A relative consoles Aishanya Dwivedi in Kanpur. Aishanya's husband Shubham Dwivedi was killed by terrorists in Pahalgam in Kashmir. AP

> Both the government and the armed forces should be free to choose the place and time of action, but it is preferable to do it without publicity if possible, as that would reduce chances of escalation.
> SHARAT SABHARWAL

LGDH: In 2016, we had planned for a reaction, but Pakistan said "nothing happened" and did not retaliate (to the surgical strikes). The Pakistani response to the Balakot strikes in 2019 taught us that there would be retaliation after that. After 2019, Pakistani strategists have written about a strategy of 'quid pro quo plus' – that is, reacting in an equal manner plus a little more – if India does something. So, as we contemplate actions now, we need to prepare for that. In 2019, we hadn't looked at this aspect enough, so there was a hasty reaction to Pakistan's retaliation. We need to see what is the lowest level of military force which can be considered a success from our side. People have suddenly started talking about 'taking PoK (Pakistan-occupied Kashmir)'; that is far-fetched.

Even after 2019, we had the 2021 LoC ceasefire negotiations. In 2024, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar travelled to Islamabad for the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), although he didn't hold a bilateral dialogue. Should such measures end as well?

SS: The primary challenge we have now is China. Our responsibilities on that side of the border (Line of Actual Control) have grown. I believe it is in our interest to keep the western border as calm as possible. At the moment it is very volatile because of what has happened. We cannot leave the SCO just because Pakistan is part of it or because China has an active role in it. We must think of larger considerations.

LGDH: A ceasefire in 2021 made strategic sense. We were looking more closely at the military challenge from China, at the fact that a large number of forces had got deployed there (at the LAC). We cannot completely insulate the ceasefire from the state of India-Pakistan relations as they exist today. We are already seeing breaches on the ceasefire line and I think that will only increase. Obviously both sides have built up additional forces along the LoC, expecting something to happen. There will be suspicion regarding any movement taking place on both sides. If and when military action takes place, I think the ceasefire will not survive.

Has the Pahalgam attack drawn a line? Is there any chance of bilateral, diplomatic engagement in the future?

LGDH: For now, the attack has drawn a red line. We can't look five or 10 years down the line, but in the immediate future, I don't see any positive engagement happening. We see only rhetoric from Pakistan – on war, nuclear weapons, etc.

SS: My reading is that the trajectory of this relationship, even beyond the resolution of this crisis, remains sombre. Diplomacy has taken a complete backseat for various reasons. First, our 'terror and talks cannot go together' policy. Second, Pakistan's unreasonable demand, which it sticks to, that India must withdraw the Article 370 move, for any bilateral engagement. The two countries are dependent entirely on security, deterrence, and coercion to manage the relationship. Ideally, coercion should be a means to an end, with its impact being leveraged at some stage through dialogue and diplomacy to bring the adversary to a more desirable stage. I don't think permanent peace between India and Pakistan is on the cards, given the nature of the Pakistani state. Our aim should be to manage this relationship at the lowest possible level of pain. Because if it is a journey of coercion, and coercion becomes an end in itself, that creates an environment that is prone to volatility. Our security forces protect us brilliantly against most of that volatility, but there is always a chance of the enemy getting through.

Given all this, what kind of military response would you suggest?

SS: It is up to the government [to decide]. Both the government and the armed forces should be free to choose the place and time of action, but it is preferable to do it without publicity if possible, as that would reduce chances of escalation. When you publicise actions, you force the other side to further action, given the imperatives of public sentiment.

LGDH: It is up to the government. I agree that the more we hype our actions, the more pressure there will be on Pakistan to retaliate.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Willpower, the secret weapon of the Vietnamese during the war

A reminder of the strength of collectivism, 50 years since re-unification

Srinivasan Ramani

In Satyajit Ray's classic *Pratidwandi*, set in the late 1960s in Kolkata, the protagonist Siddhartha, played by Dhritiman Chatterjee, goes for a job interview. The panel asks, "What would you regard as the most outstanding and significant event in the last decade?"

With little hesitation, Siddhartha responds: "The war in Vietnam".

"More significant than the landing on the moon?"

"Yes," he says. "We were not unprepared for the moon landing. We knew about advances in space technology. It was remarkable but not unpredictable. On the other hand, the Vietnam War revealed the extraordinary power of resistance of the Vietnamese people... the ordinary people... peasants... nobody knew they had it in them. This isn't just technology, it's about plain human courage, and it takes your breath away."

Prompt comes the question: "Are you a communist?"

Siddhartha replies, "I don't think one needs to be one to admire the Vietnamese".

This may be a dialogue from a film, but it is still a powerful reflection of how thinking and informed people across the world, especially among the poor and developing countries, perceived the Vietnamese struggle for reunification of their partitioned country. Faced with the onslaught of a much superior and heavily armed superpower, the Vietnamese relied on their collective spirit and ingenious ability to use their terrain and peasant knowledge. While they did get help from other countries of the former Socialist bloc, their success was largely owed to the implementation of their own ideas and their hunger for freedom.

I got an opportunity to study the thought process of that generation recently. I was one of the many journalists who was invited to cover the 50th anniversary of Vietnam's reunification, celebrated with pomp on April 30. Vietnam is today among the fastest-growing and upper-middle-income economies in the world. Ho Chi Minh City – the present-day name of Saigon, the outpost and capital of South Vietnam, and the fall of which signalled the end of the Vietnam War – betrays little about the war-torn city that it was five decades ago. However, a few miles away from the city, the Cu Chi tunnels showcase how the Vietnamese managed to outwit their opponents through sheer willpower.

Using just shovels and wicker baskets, the Vietnamese resistance forces built a 250-km-long, three storey tunnel complex. This consisted of simple ventilation provisions, water wells, resting rooms, kitchens (with carefully designed chimneys to avoid smoke detection), military bunkers, medicinal facilities, and camouflaged areas facilitating shooters to attack the enemy. Most of the implements used to build this complex were as old as the Iron Age, but they were still enough to cause terror among the Americans and the South Vietnamese infantry.

The Vietnamese also retold stories of guerrilla fighters in the Can Gio mangrove forest, located about 70 km from Ho Chi Minh City. Here, the Viet Cong guerrillas, many wearing simple loincloths to wade and swim across crocodile-infested waters, used harsh terrain such as mangrove forests and the Lòng Tàu River, to plan raids and ambushes on U.S. vessels and South Vietnamese facilities. When firebombs, including the use of the notorious napalm bombs, and heavy artillery were dropped on them, the survivors used the remains of the unexploded ones to be repurposed for their own artillery. The remarkable feature of the armed resistance was the steadfast emphasis on collectivism and the avoidance of a personality cult, except for the strong reverence for the tallest leader of the Vietnamese liberation movement, Ho Chi Minh. On this anniversary of re-unification, it is worth remembering how forceful ideas and willpower in fighting for a just cause can triumph over brute force.

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PICTURE OF THE WEEK | Taking the bull by its horns

A gutsy tamer prevails over a ferocious bull during a jallikattu held at Chettipalayam in Coimbatore on April 27. PERIASAMY M.

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1975

Centre may float bonds in other countries

New Delhi, May 1: The Union Finance Minister, Mr. C. Subramaniam, is examining the possibility of floating short, medium or long-term Government of India bonds in countries like Philippines, Hongkong, Thailand, etc., to which the Indians residing in those countries, besides the nationals, can subscribe. He is also believed to be considering the scope for making some changes in the banking laws to provide for the holding of deposits of Indians resident in these countries in foreign currency instead of rupees.

This is in response to the representations made by members of the Indian community who met the Finance Minister in Manila, where he was recently to attend the Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of the Asian Development Bank. Members of the Indian community in Hongkong and Bangkok also met the Finance Minister when he was returning to India from Philippines. The Indian Chambers of Commerce in Manila, numbering about 100, had given him a reception while Indian bankers, insurance men and other businessmen, numbering about 200, met him in Hongkong. There was a similar informal meeting with Indian businessmen and traders in Thailand.

Indians resident in these countries have done well in industry and trade but the events in Vietnam and Cambodia have filled them with a sense of uncertainty about their future.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MAY 2, 1925

Punjab Council

Lahore, May 1: When the Punjab Legislative Council met to-day, Sir John Maynard announced, amidst applause, that out of the revenue surplus of the preceding year and a windfall of 56 lakhs on account of the remission in the provincial contribution the Punjab Government has decided to remit 20 lakhs of taxation. Of this, 17 lakhs will be accounted for by the remission of one rupee per acre on fodder crops on perennial canals. While this remission benefits the agriculturalists on perennial canals the interests of all agriculturalists are being considered in order to be restored to the rate existing previous to the financial stringency.

From Page One

India gets U.S. support in fight against terror

The U.S. State Department readout on the call said Mr. Rubio "expressed his sorrow for the lives lost in the horrific terrorist attack in Pahalgam, and reaffirmed the United States's commitment to cooperation with India against terrorism," adding that he "encouraged India to work with Pakistan to de-escalate tensions and maintain peace and security in South Asia".

Rubio calls for Pak. cooperation

In his call to Mr. Sharif, Mr. Rubio spoke of the "need to condemn" the Pahalgam attack, and urged Pakistani officials' "cooperation in investigating this unconscionable attack".

Mr. Rubio's note urging talks joined a number of other countries including the U.K., Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and others who have spoken at high levels in both Delhi and Islamabad, even as India prepares its next response to Pakistan over the Pahalgam attack. Meanwhile, in Islamabad, a statement from Mr. Sharif's office said the Pakistani Prime Minister had asked the U.S. to ask India to "dial down the rhetoric and act responsibly".

A day after the terror attack, U.S. President Donald Trump spoke to Prime Minister Narendra Modi during which he strongly condemned the terror attack and expressed "full support" to India to "bring to justice" the perpetrators of this heinous attack.

Since the terror attack, Pakistan issued 'Nav area' warning or NOTAMs (Notice to Airmen) for almost every day, while the Indian Navy too had carried out several missile firings. India had notified naval firing at four locations off Gujarat from April 30 to May 3, while Pakistan had notified naval drills from April 30 to May 2.

'Not in favour of regulatory disparities in broadcasting'

Devesh K. Pandey
MUMBAI

Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman Anil Kumar Lahoti on Thursday said it was not in favour of creating an environment where regulatory disparities put one medium of broadcasting at a disadvantage over another.

Mr. Lahoti's remark came days after the Supreme Court sought responses from the Centre and others concerned on a plea seeking a ban on the streaming of sexually explicit content on OTT and social media platforms.

He said: "...the issues which are coming forward now are the regulatory disparities between one medium of dissemination and another. While we want technology to come up and provide better audio-video experience so that the consumer can enjoy the fruits of the development of the technology, we do not want to create an environment where regulation discriminates between two mediums."

Will not spare those involved in cowardly terror attack: Shah

Minister says Modi had a zero tolerance policy against those involved in terrorism in Kashmir, and that the govt. was fighting the battle strongly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that the terrorists who had carried out the cowardly Pahalgam terror attack would not be spared.

"If anyone thinks that they have won by carrying out cowardly attacks, then they should know that this is the Modi government – which will not spare anyone," Mr. Shah said during an event to unveil the statue and naming of a road after Bodofa Upendranath Brahma, a Bodo social activist, at the national capital.

Pays tribute

Paying tribute to those who had lost their lives in the terror attack, the Union Home Minister conveyed to their families that this was not just their loss but the loss of the entire nation.

Strong words: Home Minister Amit Shah reiterated that the Union government was resolved to root out terrorism. PTI

He said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had a zero tolerance policy against those involved in terrorism in Kashmir, and that the government was fighting the battle strongly.

"I want to send a message to people spreading terror, this is not the end of the battle and every person responsible for terrorism will be answered and will also be asked to answer," the Minister said.

Be it insurgency in the northeast, left-wing extremism, or terrorism in Kashmir, all had been given a befitting reply, Mr. Shah said.

He said that the government's resolve to root out terrorism from the soil of India would be fulfilled. He said that not only 140 crore Indians but the entire world was standing with Indians in this fight.

EC to obtain death registration data for voter roll revision

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

This comes amid allegations from Opposition parties of manipulation in electoral rolls

In order to improve the accuracy of electoral rolls, the Election Commission (EC) has decided to obtain death registration data electronically from the Registrar-General of India.

The data will be obtained by the poll body in line with Rule 9 of the Registration of Electors Rules, 1960, and Section 3(5)(b) of the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969 (as amended in 2023).

This will ensure that the electoral registration officers (EROs) receive timely information about registered deaths. This will also enable booth-level officers to reverify the information through field visits, without waiting for a formal request under Form 7, the EC said in a statement on Thursday.

The move comes amid allegations from many Opposition parties of manipulation in voter rolls in the recent Assembly elections.

The commission will also issue photo identity cards to booth-level officers to ensure that citizens can recognise and interact confidently with them during voter verification and registration drives.

The booth-level officers are appointed by the EROs under Section 13B (2) of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and they are the first interface between the voters and the EC in performing election-related duties.

The poll body has also decided to modify the design of voter information slips to make it more voter-friendly. The serial number and part number of the voter will now be displayed more prominently, with increased font size, making it easier for voters to identify their polling station, and for polling officials to locate their names in the electoral roll easily.

U.S. gains access to Ukraine's minerals

"President Trump envisioned this partnership between the American people and the Ukrainian people to show both sides' commitment to lasting peace and prosperity in Ukraine."

The signing comes two months after a different but similar agreement was nearly signed before being derailed in a tense Oval Office meeting involving President Donald Trump, Vice-President J.D. Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

Mr. Trump said on Wednesday night that the deal, "in theory," means that the U.S. will get more from Ukraine than it contributed. "I wanted to be protected," he said, adding that he didn't want to be looking "foolish" by not getting money back for the investment.

Mr. Zelensky said on Thursday that a minerals deal signed with the United States offered "equal" benefits for both sides, despite falling short of the explicit security guarantees Kyiv had asked for.

PM champions 'orange economy' at WAVES

"Bharat is a country of a billion plus stories. Our stories have science, fiction, courage. Our treasure basket is very rich and diverse. The big responsibility of WAVES is to keep this in front of the people of the world. Our treasure is thought-provoking and truly global," he said.

Mr. Ambani said that the current valuation of India's entertainment industry is $28 million. "It will reach $100 million over the next few years. Let the stories flow, let the WAVES rise," he said.

Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen said, "The next boom of India is not in software, but in creativity and entertainment. With the unmatched talent in this country, India's creative economy is poised to employ more than in manufacturing industry. Over a billion people have used Adobe. A majority being used in India is being used to empower teachers. The intent is to reach two crore students and five lakh teachers. Our collaboration with WAVES will take Indian talent global."

The inaugural song at the event, showcasing India's spirituality and diversity, was composed by Oscar winning composer M.M. Keeravani.

4 killed and 7 injured in massive fire in Ajmer

Everyone from the hotel as well as the nearby shops and buildings were evacuated. Plumes of thick black smoke emanating from the hotel in the densely populated area could be seen billowing into the sky from a distance.

Two persons jumped in panic from a window onto an adjacent building, while another man grabbed a rope, but fell to the ground. A woman saved the life of her three-year-old son by tossing him from a window to a man standing in the lane.

The hotel is frequented by the pilgrims visiting the 13th century dargah of Sufi mystic Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti. Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, elected from Ajmer North constituency, has given instructions to the district administration to ensure proper treatment of those injured and launch an investigation into the mishap.

Governor Haribhau Bagde and Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma expressed condolences over the loss of lives.

NIA to collect voice, handwriting samples of Tahawwur Rana

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Wednesday allowed the National Investigative Agency (NIA) to collect the voice and handwriting samples of 26/11 Mumbai attack accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana.

Special NIA Judge Chander Jit Singh passed the order for collection of voice and handwriting samples while hearing an application moved by the NIA.

Tahawwur Rana

Custody extended

The court had extended Rana's custody to the NIA for 12 more days, till May 9.

The 64-year-old Pakistani-origin Canadian-American Rana is wanted for the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks conspiracy. The central agency had charged him for supporting his friend David Headley, the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) mastermind who carried out the planning and reconnaissance operations for the Mumbai attacks at the behest of LeT chief Hafiz Saeed. Around 166 people were killed in the almost three-day long assault.

According to the NIA, Rana was involved in the planning of the Mumbai attacks, assisting Headley in procuring a visa and creating a false identity so he could travel to India. He has been charged with criminal conspiracy, waging war against the government of India, murder and forgery and under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

Border clashes between Indian, Pak. Armies in J&K continues for the sixth day

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

There was no let-up in exchange of fie between Indian and Pakistan Armies along the Line of Control (LoC) and International Border (IB) in J&K for the sixth consecutive day on Thursday.

"During the night of April 30-May 1, the Pakistan Army posts initiated unprovoked small-arms fire across the LoC opposite Kupwara, Uri and Akhnoor in the Union Territory of J&K," the Army said.

These were responded proportionately by the Indian Army, it said.

Farooq raises concern

Former J&K Chief Minister and National Conference (NC) president Farooq Abdullah on Thursday expressed concern over India and Pakistan "preparing for a battleground" following the terror attack.

Policemen check a vehicle at a temporary checkpoint during a surprise search operation in Srinagar on Thursday. IMRAN NISSAR

He described Pakistan as "a failed state".

"In case there is a war, the consequences will be disastrous. Both [India and Pakistan] are nuclear countries. It's a tense situation...efforts are on globally that it [war] should not happen and the situation defuses, and those involved and behind [the terror attack] are arrested."

Meanwhile, an U.S. based Kashmiri activist who heads the World Kashmir Awareness Forum Syed Ghulam Nabi Fai was declared 'proclaimed offender' by a court in central Kashmir's Budgam in a case filed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. Fai has been a close associate of separatist leaders in Kashmir.

Petition for a judicial probe into Pahalgam attack rejected

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday refused to entertain a plea for a judicial probe into the Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 dead, asking whether the litigants wanted to demoralise the security forces.

"This is a crucial time when each and every citizen of the country has joined hands to fight terrorism. Do you want to demoralise the security forces by filing this kind of PIL [public interest litigation petition]?" Justice Surya Kant, heading a Bench with Justice N. Kotiswar Singh, addressed the petitioners' counsel.

The petition had sought the constitution of an independent agency headed by a former Supreme Court to investigate the attack.

The petitioners finally chose to withdraw their case.

Delhi HC slams Ramdev for new video on rival brand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday came down heavily on yoga guru Baba Ramdev for allegedly releasing a fresh video targeting Hamdard, despite an earlier undertaking to refrain from making similar statements against the brand.

The court was hearing a plea filed by Hamdard National Foundation India against Ramdev and his Patanjali Foods Ltd.

Last week, after the court slammed Ramdev over his remarks allegedly targeting Hamdard's drink Rooh Afza as "Sharbat Jihad", he agreed to immediately take down all related videos.

However, on Thursday, Hamdard's counsel informed the court that Ramdev has posted yet another video containing objectionable content.

U.S. notifies potential sale of maritime surveillance tech worth $131 million to India

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

The IPMDA was announced by Quad grouping at the 2022 Tokyo summit to track 'dark shipping'

In an indication that the ambitious initiative of Quad grouping for the region – the Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) – is making progress, the U.S. Defence Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) issued a notification stating that U.S. State Department has made a determination approving a possible Foreign Military Sale to India of IPMDA and related equipment for an estimated cost of $131 million.

The Defence Security Cooperation Agency delivered the required certification notifying Congress of this possible sale on April 30, the notification said. "The Government of India has requested to buy SeaVision software (including requested software enhancements); Technical Assistance Field Team (TAFT) training; remote software and analytic support; access to SeaVision documentation; and other related elements of logistics and program support."

Support foreign policy

The IPMDA was announced by the Quad grouping, comprising India, Australia, Japan and U.S., at the Tokyo summit in May 2022 to track "dark shipping" and build a "faster, wider, and more accurate maritime picture of near-real-time activities in partners' waters" integrating three critical regions in the Indo-Pacific – the Pacific Islands, Southeast Asia, and Indian Ocean Region.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the U.S. by helping to strengthen the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defence partner, which continues to be an "important force" for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia regions, the DSCA noted. "The proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet current and future threats by bolstering its maritime domain awareness, analytical capabilities, and strategic posture. India will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces."

The principal contractor will be Hawkeye 360, located in Herndon, Virginia.

Govt. brings raw sugar within regulatory ambit

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government, on Thursday, reviewed the Sugar (Control) Order of 1966 by bringing raw sugar within its ambit of regulation. Raw sugar will now be considered in the total stock of sugar across the country and the figures of the actual stock will also be available to the public. By the decision, the Centre hopes to put a stop to giving misleading names of raw sugar, which is gaining popularity and sold by the name of *khandsari* or organic.

Briefing about the decision, a senior Food Ministry official said *khandsari* sugar units having crushing capacity more than 500 Tons of Cane per Day (TCD) has been included in the Sugar Control Order of 2025. "Inclusion will ensure payment of fair and remunerative price to the farmers by *khandsari* sugar factories and will help in the accurate estimation of sugar production," the Ministry said.

APPEAL

Selvan Karthick.K, Hospital Regn. No. 1272112, 15 years old son of Kumar admitted G. Kuppuswamy Naidu Memorial Hospital is diagnosed a case of T-Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia. He completed induction Chemotherapy. He needs reconsolidation Chemotherapy for next 2 months. The esimate cost for Chemotherapy is approximately **Rs. 3,50,000/-.**

Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/ D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Karthick.K. **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

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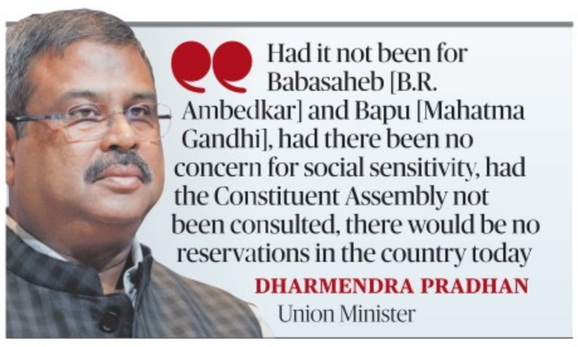
Cong. never undertook caste count as party historically opposed it: BJP

Pradhan says Centre's decision is being perceived as the difference between 'empty slogans and true intentions'; he accuses Opposition party of being against tribal people, Dalits, Backward Classes; Nehru was against caste-based quotas, he adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on Thursday said that the announcement of caste enumeration along with the decadal Census exercise by the Union government was perceived as a difference between "empty slogans and true intentions" after the Congress claimed it was pressure from the Opposition that led to the decision.

At a press conference a day after the announcement here, Union Minister and BJP leader Dharmendra Pradhan said the Congress had never undertaken a caste count because historically the party had been opposed to it.



> Had it not been for Babasaheb [B.R. Ambedkar] and Bapu [Mahatma Gandhi], had there been no concern for social sensitivity, had the Constituent Assembly not been consulted, there would be no reservations in the country today
>
> **DHARMENDRA PRADHAN**
> Union Minister

"When this decision was taken yesterday, some people were visibly agitated. They were saying 'the government is theirs, but the system is ours'. Now that the issue is finally being addressed, there should be an open discussion. The country deserves to know the truth. Who was in power in 1951? Who controlled the system then?" Mr. Pradhan said.

The senior BJP leader added that reservations existed today because of leaders like B.R. Ambedkar and Mahatma Gandhi, claiming former Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru was strongly opposed to caste-based quotas.

"Jawaharlal Nehru's thinking was well known. Had it not been for Babasaheb [B.R. Ambedkar] and Bapu [Mahatma Gandhi], had there been no concern for social sensitivity, had the Constituent Assembly not been consulted, there would be no reservations in the country today, because Nehru was staunchly opposed to caste-based reservation," he said.

On Mandal Commission

The senior BJP leader said the erstwhile Janata government had established the Mandal Commission in 1977 to promote social justice, adding, at that time, Jana Sangh, the BJP's predecessor, was a part of the Janata Party, and prominent leaders like Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Lal Krishna Advani were part of that government.

The Union Minister asked who was responsible for keeping the Mandal Commission report locked away for 10 years.

"In the government led by V.P. Singh, the Mandal Commission report was implemented on our [BJP's] suggestion... Rajiv Gandhi has also given long speeches against OBC [Other Backward Class] reservation... What can we expect from those whose social justice is limited to justice for their families? The Congress party has always been against the deprived, tribals, Dalits, and Backward Classes of the country. That is why their hypocrisy is visible today," the Union Minister said.

CWC meet today, Congress seeks amendment to lift 50% cap on reservation

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday demanded that the Narendra Modi government bring in a constitutional amendment to remove the 50% cap on reservations, even as it targeted the Prime Minister for being "the master of giving headlines without deadline" for announcing a caste enumeration with a timeline.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) will meet on Friday to discuss the road map of the party's social justice agenda after the Union government announced that the caste enumeration will done along with the Census. The party is likely to thank the leadership, including Rahul Gandhi, for "forcing the Modi government to announce caste census".

Party to discuss the road map of its social justice agenda after announcement of caste enumeration

The CWC is expected to urge the government for strong action against Pakistan and according "martyr" status to the victims of the terror attack.

At a press conference at the All India Congress Committee office, Congress general secretary communications in-charge Jairam Ramesh said questions arise about the U-turn by the Modi government on the caste census. Exactly a year ago, the PM had said "those demanding the caste census in the country display urban-Naxals mindset", he said.

"Have the Prime Minister and Home Minister also become urban Naxals now since they have announced plans to carry out the caste census in the country," he asked. Questioning the timing of the announcement, Mr. Ramesh said the biggest issue before the country was the Pahalgam massacre and when the country was expecting a response against Pakistan, the government was indulging in "diversionary tactics" by announcing the caste census.

He cited a December 2019 press release that said the Union Cabinet had allocated ₹8,254 crore to conduct the census in 2021. In the current Budget, the Census Commissioner had been allocated a meagre ₹575 crore.

Fix timeline, allocate funds for caste count: Kharge in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge, welcoming the Union government's decision to carry out a caste count along with the upcoming decadal Census, demanded on Thursday that the government make it a priority, allocate sufficient funds, and finish the exercise within a stipulated timeline.

He added that a socio-economic and educational survey should also be completed in a way that satisfied everyone.

Speaking to presspersons here, Mr. Kharge said all the Opposition parties had been demanding a caste census, and Congress leader Rahul Gandhi had taken the lead on the issue. Although the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government had turned down the demand earlier, they had finally agreed, Mr. Kharge said.

"I had written a letter two years ago demanding a caste census along with the upcoming general Census. They did not agree then. But now they have announced they will do it, and we welcome it and will

He added that a socio-economic and educational survey should also be completed

fully cooperate with the Union government, as it is good for the nation," Mr. Kharge said.

Responding to questions over allegations by the Bharatiya Janata Party that the Congress was not committed to the idea and Jawaharlal Nehru had opposed a caste census, Mr. Kharge accused the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) and Jan Sangh of being anti-reservation since their inception. If the Congress was against the caste count, why would the party and its leaders agitate for it, he said.

While the Congress would cooperate with the government in conducting the caste census, the BJP should desist from making unnecessary comments about the party, Mr. Kharge said.

"They (the BJP) create confusion in the minds of the people, but claim that they are the only people interested in the country's welfare. It is bogus," he said.

Census likely to be held next year to match delimitation schedule: Kishan

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

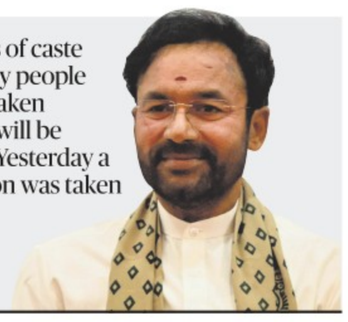
Union Minister for Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said on Thursday that the Census Act, 1948, would have to be amended to enable the enumeration of caste in the next Census exercise.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, the Union Minister said the Census was expected to be conducted in 2026 to align with the schedule of delimitation of the Lok Sabha and Assembly constituencies, a constitutional requirement.

According to the 84th Constitutional Amendment Act of 2001, the redrawing of boundaries of the constituencies is to be carried out on the basis of population data of the first Census after 2026. The current seats are drawn on the basis of 1971 Census.

The Union Minister, when asked about the timing of the announcement, especially a week after the Pahalgam terror attack, said, "The population Census is about to happen next year but the preparation has to begin now, groundwork has to be done. Forms have to be finalised, enumerators are to be trained and the Act has to be amended. Keeping all that in mind, this decision was taken. Census Act does not have the provision of caste, Act will have to be changed."

> The names of caste provided by people will also have to be taken into account. There will be detailed guidelines. Yesterday a fundamental decision was taken that Census should enumerate caste
>
> **G. KISHAN REDDY**
> Union Minister



Detailed discussions

Mr. Reddy, who is a member of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) that took the decision on Wednesday, said the procedure for recording castes will be finalised after detailed discussions with caste organisations, public representatives and public intellectuals among others.

"The names of caste provided by people will also have to be taken into account... There will be detailed guidelines. Yesterday a fundamental decision was taken that Census should enumerate caste," the Minister said. He added that the Bill was likely to be tabled during the Monsoon Session of

Population Census, usually conducted every 10 years, was last held in the country in 2011

Parliament. He said the caste details of Muslim community would also be recorded in the Census.

Responding to a question on why the Census, supposed to be conducted in 2021, was withheld all these years, Mr. Reddy said, "Constituencies are to be rearranged in the coming days. It is a constitutional requirement as well as a demand by society. Another Census would have had to be done after 2026, so to accommodate the delimitation schedule, it was decided to conduct it later."

Castes other than the Scheduled Castes have never been enumerated in Independent India. The Scheduled Tribes are also counted. The Census, usually conducted every 10 years, was last held in the country in 2011.

The whole exercise generally spanning 11 months is conducted in two phases – House Listing and Housing Schedule, and Population Enumeration. It begins on April 1 and concludes on February 28 of a calendar year.

This is not the first time that the BJP government, after it came to power in 2014, has announced plans for a caste count.

On August 31, 2018, the Union Home Ministry announced that OBC data would be collected for the first time during the next Census exercise. Its press statement titled "Union Home Minister reviews preparation for Census 2021" said "it is also envisaged to collect data on OBCs for the first time".

There was no further action on the issue since then.

When *The Hindu* filed an application under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Office of the Registrar-General of India (RGI) said that deliberations and file notings regarding the decision were not available with its office.

Caste enumeration is the need of the hour: Chirag Paswan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision to include the enumeration of caste in the next Census, Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief and Union Minister Chirag Paswan said it was the need of the hour.

Addressing a press conference, Mr. Paswan hit out at the Opposition for vying to take credit and claiming that the step was taken under their pressure.

He singled out the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, accusing him of exploiting the issue for electoral benefit, though the Congress governments at the Centre and State did nothing about it in the past when they were in power.

Chirag Paswan

Different views

Mr. Paswan also said that he was often cornered for divergence in his view on the caste count with his ally BJP. While Mr. Paswan advocated for a caste count, the BJP, till Wednesday's announcement, stood against it, arguing that the caste count would be divisive.

It [caste count] will help bring those sections of society that were not receiving any benefits of government schemes or the reservation policy into the mainstream, he said.

"Rahul Gandhi's party was in power at the Centre for many years, and three members of his family have been Prime Ministers in Independent India. But they did not take any steps to hold a caste census, he said. "It's only Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had the will to do it," the Union Minister added.

Mr. Paswan termed the caste surveys conducted in the Congress-ruled Karnataka and Telangana as non-transparent and motivated by politics. He rejected the Opposition charge that the Centre's decision was taken with an eye on elections, particularly in Bihar.

Liberal education in a rapidly changing world: academics to share their thoughts at The Huddle

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THE HINDU
HUDDLE
INDIA IN DIALOGUE
Co-powered by
GOVERNMENT OF TELANGANA

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

What kind of an education will best prepare young people to understand themselves, make thoughtful life decisions, and navigate a rapidly changing world?

At *The Hindu* Huddle session titled "Well-rounded world view: Finding a place for liberal education", Bhavani S., Dean of the School of Humanities and Performing Arts, Christ College; Jonathan Gill Harris, Professor, Ashoka University; Srinath Raghavan, Professor, Ashoka University; and Sudheesh Venkatesh, Managing Editor, Azim Premji Foundation, will explore the increasing importance of a liberal education in today's complex world.

The conversation will be moderated by Maya Thiagarajan, Educator, Teacher Trainer, and Founder, TREE. *The Hindu* Huddle will be held in Bengaluru on May and 10.

The Hindu Huddle 2025 is presented by Sami-Sabinsa Group	■ State partner: Meghalaya tourism
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Through its broad, interdisciplinary nature, a liberal education helps students gain not just critical thinking skills but also the ability to better understand themselves and make thoughtful and ethical decisions. As we live through an AI revolution, increasing geopolitical complexity, and a frightening rise in mental health issues, young people need an education that prepares them for a very uncertain future. They need a broad world view and the ability to analyse complex situations from a range of perspectives. They also need to fully understand what it means to be human and how to live a good life. A liberal education may be the best way for them to gain these skills and navigate the road ahead.

In India, college education has historically been oriented towards a specific profession such as engineering or business, so for Indian families, the idea of a liberal education that is inherently interdisciplinary in nature and not necessarily geared towards a specific profession is fairly new.

In this session, the academics will share their thoughts on the purpose of education in today's world, the various courses and curricula that characterise a liberal education, and the ways in which a liberal education prepares young people both for the workforce and for adult life. They will also examine the challenges of a liberal education in an Indian context.

If you have any questions that you would like our moderator to ask the panellists, write to us at huddle@thehindu.co.in

Senior Cong. leader Girija Vyas dies in Ahmedabad

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Girija Vyas, who had sustained burns during a Gangaur puja ritual at her residence in Udaipur, died in a hospital in Ahmedabad on Thursday. She was 79.

Ms. Vyas – a three-time former MP and two-time former MLA from Udaipur – sustained 90% burns after her *'dupatta'* (long scarf) caught fire during the puja on March 31.

She died of injuries during treatment at Zydus Multispeciality Hospital in Ahmedabad.

Ms. Vyas served as a Minister in both the State and Union governments and was also the president of the Rajasthan Pradesh Congress Committee.

ARMY COLLEGE OF DENTAL SCIENCES, SECUNDERABAD
TENDER NOTICE

1. Sealed and separate Tenders are invited by 30 May 2025 upto 12.00Hrs for construction of PG block for Army College of Dental Sciences, Secunderabad, India.
2. College premises may be seen by interested agencies / firms between 09.30 AM to 03.30 PM on any working day.
3. The detailed terms and conditions may be obtained on cash payment of Rs. 11,800/- (Non Refundable)/ download from College website (http://acds.edu.in) and Cost of Tender documents of Rs. 11,800/- be deposited in the form of Demand draft (In favour of ACDS CAPITAL FUND), Secunderabad, including GST) alongwith documents for Technical Bid.

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252613 000729	Fabrication and Erection of Pipe Rack for RSPS#2 Project at TNPL Unit - I.	31.05.2025
252613 000752	Multi-colour Laminated Wrapper Reel of various sizes (Base 80 GSM with 10 Micron Polyester).	14.05.2025
252613 000763	Heat Treated Plywood Pallet of various sizes.	14.05.2025
252613 000760	Procurement of Optical Brightening Agent (Wet End Liquid OBA) for PM#1, 2 & 3.	16.05.2025
252613 000761	Procurement of Filler Grade Precipitated Calcium Carbonate (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	16.05.2025
252613 000762	Procurement of Cationic Starch (In Jumbo Bags) for Unit - I.	17.05.2025
Email	252613000729 - pmd8@tnpl.co.in 252613000752 ; 763 - purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in 252613000760 ; 0761 ; 0762 - purchase.rawmatl@tnpl.co.in	

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app

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INBRIEF

Wheat procurement to meet target, says Food Ministry

The procurement of wheat for the 2025-26 season is proceeding smoothly in the major procuring States, the Union Food Ministry stated here on Thursday. So far, 256.31 lakh tonnes (lt) of wheat have been procured for the Central pool against a target of 312 lt set for this season. At a press conference, Union Food Secretary Sanjeev Chopra expressed confidence in a bumper harvest, and added that the procurement is expected to meet the target. When asked about restoring the wheat entitlement for States under the public distribution system (PDS), he said the Centre would review the situation after the procurement process concludes.

Jet fuel price cut by 4%, rate of commercial LPG reduced

The price of jet fuel, or ATF, was reduced by 4.4% on Thursday – marking the second major cut within a month. Additionally, the price of commercial LPG used in hotels and restaurants was lowered by ₹14.50 per cylinder, in line with international benchmarks. The aviation turbine fuel (ATF) price was reduced by ₹3,954.38 per kilolitre, or 4.4%, to ₹85,486.80 a kl in the national capital, according to state-owned fuel retailers. Oil firms reduced the price of commercial LPG by ₹14.50 a 19-kg cylinder. The reduction follows a ₹41 per cylinder cut in rates on April 1. The rate of cooking gas used in domestic households, however, remained unchanged at ₹853 a 14.2-kg cylinder. Prices of ATF and LPG differ from State to State depending on the incidence of local taxes, including VAT. PTI

₹850 crore to be invested in India's creator economy, says YouTube chief

Devesh K. Pandey
MUMBAI

YouTube chief executive officer Neal Mohan on Thursday announced an investment of ₹850 crore to accelerate India's creator economy.

During a session at the WAVES summit, Mr. Mohan said there were more than 15,000 Indian YouTube channels with over a million subscribers each.

Joined by global creators Mark Rober and Gautami Kawale, Mr. Mohan underlined YouTube's role in taking Indian stories globally.

"India isn't just leading in music and film, it's now a creator nation," Mr. Mohan said.

Kolkata fire: owner and manager of hotel arrested

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Kolkata Police on Thursday arrested two persons in connection with the fire at Rituraj Hotel in the city's Burrabazar area that claimed 14 lives on Tuesday night.

"Two persons, Akash Chawla, the owner of the hotel, and his manager Gaurav Kapoor, have been arrested," the Kolkata Police said.

According to the police, 12 of the 14 bodies have been identified. While one person died after jumping from the hotel, 13 bodies were recovered from the rooms of the four-storey hotel.

The post-mortem revealed that the deaths were due to asphyxia because of inhalation of carbon soot and burns.

Most of the victims were traders and residents from other States who had come for shopping or a business trip to the city.

The victims included two children from Tamil Nadu, aged 10 and three. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee have all expressed condolences and grief.

The Union and the State governments announced ₹2 lakh each for the kin of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured.

Protect vulnerable people from summer heat: NHRC to States

Commission suggests States to equip public spaces such as schools with adequate ventilation, fans, drinking water, and basic medical supplies

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Amid the ongoing heatwave, particularly in the northern, central and western parts of the country, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on Thursday asked 11 States to take immediate pre-emptive measures to protect vulnerable people, especially those from poorer communities.

Highlighting data from the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) that reported 3,798 deaths between 2018 and 2022 due to heat and sun strokes, the commission has emphasised the urgent need for integrated and inclusive measures to protect outdoor workers, elderly citizens, children, and the homeless, who are at risk due to the lack of adequate shelter and resources.

In a letter to the Chief Secretaries of Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, and Rajasthan, the NHRC called for the provisioning of shelters and relief materials, changes in working hours, and standard procedures to treat heat-related illnesses.

Noon-time nap: A man and dog take shelter from the midday heat beneath a metro pillar in Hyderabad on Thursday. G. RAMAKRISHNA

Treatment protocols

In its communication to the States, the commission reiterated the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines on mitigating the impact of heatwaves, including the need to establish and implement treatment protocols for heat-related illnesses.

The commission suggested that the States equip public spaces such as schools, anganwadi centres, and community halls with adequate ventilation, fans, drinking water, and basic medical supplies.

"Ensure supply of fans, cool roof materials, and ORS sachets to families in informal settlements and labour colonies and amend working hours, provide shaded rest zones, hydration support, and encourage the use of protective clothing," the commission said.

The States were asked to submit action-taken reports in this regard.

HAL clears Army and Air Force versions of Dhruv helicopter

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Army and the Air Force versions of the advanced light helicopter (ALH) Dhruv have been cleared for operations after being grounded since January.

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), which is the manufacturer of the helicopter, on Thursday said that based on the Defect Investigation (DI) Committee recommendations, the Army and Air Force versions of the helicopter had been cleared for operations.

Time-bound plan ready

"It is now intimated that the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv Army and Air Force versions are cleared for operations based on the Defect Investigation (DI) Committee recommendations," the defence PSU said in a statement.

It further added that a time-bound plan for the resumption of operations has been worked out with the users.

The armed forces had temporarily grounded all their 330 ALHs following the January 5 crash of an ALH Mark-III of the Indian Coast Guard in Porbandar, Gujarat during a training sortie that killed all three crew members aboard the helicopter.

Crisis response: ALH choppers were pressed into operations after the Pahalgam attack.

Besides, the HAL had also advised civilian operators to ground the helicopter till the cause of the crash is identified.

Dhruv was missing in action at the Aero India, 2025. The Indian Air Force's Sarang Helicopter Display Team, which has displayed its formation aerobatics skills in the show for the past two decades, did not participate this time due to the grounding of the Dhruv helicopter.

Shortage of helicopters

Following the grounding of the indigenous helicopter, the armed forces had been facing a shortage of helicopters and their military operations were affected.

However, last week in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 tourists were killed, the Army version of the ALH had resumed flying in the Anantnag area of Jammu and Kashmir.

Army, Air Force see major changes at the top as new leaders take over

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

In a series of major changes in the top brass of the Army and Indian Air Force (IAF), Lt. Gen. Pratik Sharma took over as the Northern Army Commander, and Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took charge as the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff on Thursday. Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari is set to take over as the Vice-Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on Friday.

The changes, which come amid the tensions with Pakistan and expectations of possible punitive strikes by India, are routine due to the superannuation of the incumbents.

The three changes at the top will initiate a series of changes in the top hierarchy in the Army and IAF in the coming days.

New Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (left) and new Vice-Chief of IAF Air Marshal Narmdeshwar Tiwari.

Lt. Gen. Sharma took charge of the Udhampur-based Northern Command from Lt. Gen. Suchindra Kumar, who superannuated from service on April 30. Air Marshal Dixit assumed the post of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) from Lt. Gen. J. P. Mathew, who retired after nearly four decades in service.

Air Marshal Tiwari, who was earlier serving as Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief (AOC-in-C), South Western Air Command (SWAC) at Gandhinagar, will take over as the Vice Chief of the IAF from Air Marshal S.P. Dharkar, who superannuated on April 30. Further, Air Marshal Nagesh Kapoor, who was serving as the AOC-in-C at IAF's Training Command, is the new AOC-in-C, SWAC, and he was replaced at the Training Command by Air Marshal Tejinder Singh, who was serving as the Deputy Chief of Air Staff.

Air Marshal Balakrishnan Manikantan, serving as the AOC-in-C of Southern Air Command (SAC), is the new AOC-in-C Central Air Command.

The Navy will see a series of changes on August 1, beginning with the superannuation of Vice-Admiral S. J. Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Mumbai-based Western Naval Command on July 31.

There has been significant rise in action taken under PMLA since 2014: ED chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

There has been a significant step-up in the Enforcement Directorate's performance in cases under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) from 2014, and of the 47 cases decided in court so far, the agency has achieved a 93.6% conviction rate, ED chief Rahul Navin said on Thursday.

Speaking on the occasion of the ED's foundation day, Mr. Navin said: "...in cases where courts have reached a verdict, the outcomes have overwhelmingly supported the strength of our enforcement actions."

Acknowledging that several PMLA investigations have been pending for a "very long time" and that one of the focus areas this year will be to undertake efforts to complete the probe and file the chargesheets, he said: "We understand that long-pending investigations may fail to create deterrence and instead attract criticism."

Rahul Navin

"The total criminal property attached was only [worth] ₹5,171 crore till March 31, 2014, with the first prosecution complaint being filed only in 2012. After 2014, however, there has been a significant step-up in enforcement activity and from 2014 to 2024, 5,113 new PMLA investigations were initiated averaging more than 500 cases per year," he said.

With foreign agencies

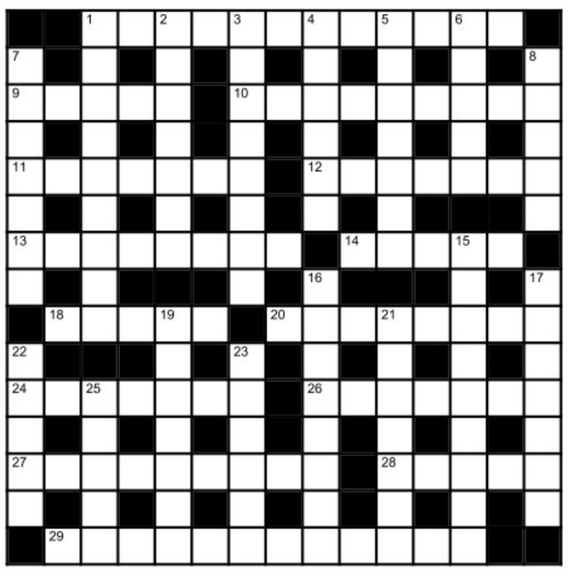
The agency is also taking initiatives to enhance cooperation with its foreign counterparts. It has signed its first Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for agency-to-agency cooperation with the Financial Crimes Commission of Mauritius on March 5, while several other such agreements are in the pipeline.

TH CROSSWORD + 14474

(set by Karaoke)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Maybe air spray at home is not the solution for treating bodily ailments (12)
9 An unemotional person is born in the family (5)
10 Great! Free passes for dramas (9)
11 Shoot doctor killing saint for bishop (7)
12 Take-off, let off and knock down (7)
13 Spooner says "shed talent in funny farm" (8)
14 Sexual materials unsuitable to students primarily (5)
18 Amateur maid is awry (5)
20 Part of splinter group admits leader of revolution (8)
24 Non-winning contestant from teals or ants (4-3)
26 Catholic avoided the eastern part of the church for new passage (7)
27 Fretful mate in pit, not able to endure (9)
28 Spot money market closing around afternoon (5)
29 Legendary story well-founded about God essentially (12)

Down

1 Fantasy bar on route relocated by municipality mainly for botanical garden (9)
2 Some confront he-goat in constant motion (2,3,2)
3 Knock for six when century is hard (8)
4 It takes one for a ride once-in-a-lifetime? (6)
5 Primarily rare heavy element noticed in uranium, molybdenum (7)
6 Explain clearly, pin-drop, it comes at the end (5)
7 Incomplete investigation on chief officer for public good (3,4)
8 Addict consuming heroin in show (5)
15 Suspected nine held in lawsuit. It comes up periodically (9)
16 It shows the cost of foreign cigaret packets primarily (5,3)
17 Stylish apartment with essential aspects in blow-up (7)
19 Skip first exit on road near church and continue (7)
21 Topsy-turvy drink of the listener! (7)
22 Secret criminal group of Dubai family returns (5)
23 Hurried funeral, ignoring head of family, for Alice-in-Wonderland (6)
25 Infantryman securing record in very first year (5)

SUDOKU

			5			8		
	6					7	4	1
	3	9			7			6
							1	5
		3	1	8	2	6		
7	4							
3			6			4	8	
6	1	8					9	
		7			3			

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

A	N	D	H	O	W	■	A	L	A	R	M	I	N	G
R	■	E	■	V	■	■	■	E	■	A	■	N	■	R
C	A	N	C	E	L	■	O	P	E	R	E	T	T	A
O	■	T	■	R	■	■	■	I	■	E	■	R	■	P
■	K	I	S	S	I	N	G	D	I	S	E	A	S	E
■	■	S	■	E	■	E	■	O	■	T	■	D	■	V
B	U	T	T	E	R	C	U	P	S	■	S	A	R	I
E	■	■	■	S	■	K	■	T	■	L	■	■	■	N
T	A	S	H	■	F	A	C	E	T	O	F	A	C	E
R	■	K	■	A	■	N	■	R	■	G	■	N	■	■
O	V	E	R	M	Y	D	E	A	D	B	O	D	Y	■
T	■	T	■	B	■	C	■	■	■	O	■	S	■	M
H	E	C	K	L	E	R	S	■	Y	O	H	O	H	O
E	■	H	■	E	■	O	■	■	K	■	O	■	K	■
D	A	Y	T	R	I	P	S	■	U	S	A	N	C	E

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

6	3	1	2	7	9	4	8	5
9	8	7	1	5	4	2	6	3
4	5	2	3	8	6	9	7	1
1	7	8	6	4	5	3	2	9
2	9	4	7	1	3	8	5	6
3	6	5	8	9	2	7	1	4
7	4	9	5	2	1	6	3	8
5	2	3	9	6	8	1	4	7
8	1	6	4	3	7	5	9	2

FAITH

Ramanuja, Andal's brother

Hailed as Bashyakarar, Emperumanar and Yatirajar, Ramanuja, the great preceptor, was an epitome of selflessness, said Damal S. Ramakrishnan.

Blessed with both great gurus and fantastic disciples, Ramanuja is an exemplar of how one should lead a dharmic life in Kali Yuga. His basic guidance for daily living is simple and easy to follow: every morning one should turn southwards, close one's eyes and pray to Sri Ranganatha, chanting 'Ranga, Ranga'. One should turn northwards and internalising Venkatadri, pray to Him. Turning eastwards, and bringing up the image of Kanchi Varadaraja in one's mind, one should pray to Him; Aligning to the West, one should think of Chella Pillai in Melkote and pray to Him.

Hailed as the essence of the four Vedas, Ramanuja, who was born in the Tamil month of Chittirai, in Sriperumbudur, is also celebrated as the 'brother' of Andal, the only female Azhwar. How did this come about? Following her *pavai nonbu*, Andal was awaiting her wedding to Ranganatha, but it did not take place at once. As is common with most of us, when we want something very badly, we pray to more than one God, fervently. Andal too prayed to Kallazhagar and He, playfully asked her, "What will you give me if I make your wish come true?". Without a moment's hesitation, she promised Kallazhagar 100 *tada* (ancient measure) akkaravadisal and 100 *tadas* of butter. Before she could act on her vow, Ranganatha appears, to marry her, thanks to Kallazhagar. The vow remained unfulfilled, until Ramanuja, who hears of it, says he will execute her vow, being her brother and travels to Tirumaliruncholai and fulfills her promise to Kallazhagar.

INBRIEF

Britannia Industries receives over ₹25-crore tax demand

Britannia Industries Ltd. on Thursday said it has received an order from the GST authority demanding over ₹25 crore pertaining to classification of a product sold by it and input tax credit in respect of certain goods. In a regulatory filing, the company said order covered tax period from July 2017 to March 2023. "The order has demanded tax of ₹25,41,73,150 along with equivalent penalty and applicable interest," Britannia Industries Ltd. said. PTI

Arvind Shrivastava takes charge as Revenue Secretary

Arvind Shrivastava on Thursday took charge as Revenue Secretary in the Finance Ministry. A 1994-batch IAS officer of Karnataka cadre, Mr. Shrivastava served as Joint Secretary and then Additional Secretary in the Prime Minister's Office. Before that, he served as Joint Secretary in the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet had on April 18 appointed him as Revenue Secretary. PTI

Japan's Sojitz announces $400-million India foray

Sojitz, a Japanese trading firm, in collaboration with IOC GPS Renewables Pvt. Ltd. (IGRPL), a joint venture between Bengaluru-based GPS Renewables and Indian Oil Corporation, will develop and operate biomethane production facilities in India using agricultural waste as feedstock. IGRPL would establish 30 biomethane plants by FY26-27 with a production capacity of 1,60,000 tonne of biomethane annually at a total outlay of over $400 million, said a communique.

Cognizant revenue up 7.4% to $5.1 bn, to hire 20,000 freshers

IT major raises full-year growth guidance to 3.9-6.4% from 2.6-5.1% earlier, expects full-year revenue of $20.5-$21 billion; total employee count falls by 500 to 3,36,300 at the end of Q1

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

U.S.-based IT major Cognizant, which has a substantial chunk of employees in India, has reported 7.45% year-on-year growth in revenue to $5.1 billion for the March quarter of 2025.

It had earned a revenue of $4.7 billion in Q1 2024.

Cognizant follows a January-December financial year. The company has raised its full-year growth guidance to 3.9-6.4% from 2.6-5.1% earlier.

It now expects a full-year (2025) revenue between $20.5-21 billion.

CEO Ravi Kumar S. said the firm has started the year on a strong note, delivering revenue and adjusted operating margin ahead of expectations.

Revenue in Q1 was contributed by Health Sciences ($1.6 billion), Financial Services ($1.4 billion), Products and Resources ($1.3 billion), and Communications, Media & Technology ($0.8 billion). Cognizant's total employee count fell by 500, reaching 3,36,300 at the end of Q1. On a trailing 12-month basis, bookings increased 3% year-on-year to $26.7 billion.

However, bookings in the first quarter declined 7% year-on-year. Q1 2025 bookings included four large deals (total contract value of $100 million or greater). Cognizant also announced plans to hire 20,000 freshers in 2025, a move intended to reshape the company's talent pyramid.

Report card

CEO Ravi Kumar S. says the firm has delivered revenue and adjusted operating margin ahead of expectations

- Revenue contributed by Health Sciences ($1.6 bn), Financial Services ($1.4 bn), Products and Resources ($1.3 bn), Communications, Media & Technology ($0.8 bn)
- On a trailing 12-month basis, bookings increased 3% year-on-year to $26.7 billion

- Q1 2025 bookings included four large deals

Rajiv Anand emerges as frontrunner for IndusInd CEO role

Piyush Shukla
MUMBAI

Rajiv Anand

Private sector lender IndusInd Bank may tap Axis Bank deputy MD Rajiv Anand for the role of MD and CEO, after Sumant Kathpalia resigned from the post, taking moral responsibility for the discrepancies found in the lender's derivatives portfolio, sources say.

"Obviously, Rajiv would be one of the candidates. Whether he wants (to be the CEO) is up to his discretion. The size of IndusInd Bank, its brand, is very different from Axis. He came from a mutual fund background, he is a CA, and handled retail, wholesale segments and understands treasury quite well," a source said.

Last month, Axis Bank informed exchanges that Anand will be retiring from his post, effective August 3 this year. Post his retirement, he will continue to be the non-executive chairperson of Axis Max Life Insurance, the lender said. After the announcement of his retirement, Anand posted on X, "What an amazing run it's been! Am ever grateful for the opportunities I got over the years! Now let's see what the future holds!".

"In case of RBL Bank, Bandhan Bank and Yes Bank, the market was expecting a public sector banker to be appointed as chief. Things at IndusInd Bank are quite different. There is no fraud; it was an accounting issue," said another source.

"This bank needs someone with retail experience due to higher exposure towards vehicle finance and micro loans. While there are media reports floating around, including CSB Bank chief Pralay Mondal, Shanti Ekambaram from Kotak Mahindra Bank and Anup Bagchi from ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, Rajiv appears to be the most suited candidate for this job," they said.

Emails to IndusInd Bank, Axis Bank, CSB Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank and ICICI Prudential Life Insurance did not elicit any formal response till going to press. Another senior official at a private bank said there have been talks around Mr. Anand being the preferred candidate for IndusInd Bank top job for some period now.

On April 29, Kathpalia resigned from the position of IndusInd Bank CEO with immediate effect. His resignation came a day after the bank's deputy CEO and ED, Arun Khurana, resigned from the bank.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

Adani Q4 net jumps on Wilmar stake sale, solar manufacturing

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Adani Enterprises Ltd., the flagship company of the billionaire Gautam Adani's group, on Thursday reported a 7.5 times jump in its fourth quarter net profit on the back of one-time gain from stake sale in consumer goods venture, and strong growth in solar manufacturing and airports.

Net profit of ₹3,845 crore in January-March – the fourth quarter of April 2024 to March 2025 fiscal year – compared with ₹450.58 crore earnings in the same period a year back, according to a company statement.

The profit rise was helped by a ₹3,286 crore gain made from the sale of stake in Wilmar. After adjusting for one-time gain from the Wilmar stake sale, the net profit came at ₹1,313 crore.

The strong performance was driven by the company's incubator businesses – solar and wind manufacturing and airports.

'Zoho holds $700-mn chipmaking plan in a setback for India'

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Indian software firm Zoho has suspended its yearlong pursuit of a $700 million plan to foray into chip manufacturing, sources familiar with the matter said, dealing another blow to the government's ambitious semiconductor plans.

Zoho struggled to find the right technology partner required to advise on the complex chipmaking processes, one of the sources said.

Reuters reported on Wednesday that Indian billionaire Gautam Adani's group has also paused discussions with Israel's Tower Semiconductor for its $10 billion chip project following an internal evaluation by the Indian group.

In a bid to diversify, Zoho planned to invest $400 million in a semiconductor facility in Karnataka state in south India.

"Zoho could not find a tech partner despite an extensive search," said one of the sources.

In April, Maruti, M&M sustain sales drive in a tough market

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Amid challenging market environment, Maruti Suzuki India and Mahindra & Mahindra (M&M) reported an increase in vehicle dispatches to dealers last month while Tata Motors and Hyundai saw a year-on-year drop in sales.

Interestingly, M&M and Tata Motors moved up the ladder to the second and third positions, respectively, last month in the domestic passenger vehicle segment while pushing long-time number two player, Hyundai Motor India to the fourth position.

Market leader Maruti Suzuki India reported a 1% year-on-year increase in total domestic dispatches (including PVs and LCV Super Carry) last month at 1,42,053 units. Sales of mini segment cars, comprising Alto and S-Presso, dropped to 6,332 units from 11,519 units.

Maruti' sales of mini-segment cars almost halved.

"Despite a challenging market environment and no new model launches, we have managed to maintain our performance," MSI senior executive officer (marketing & sales) Partho Banerjee stated.

Retail sales have also kept pace, reaching about 1.44 lakh units, he added.

(M&M) said its utility vehicle sales surged 28% to 52,330 units.

Tata Motors reported a 6% dip in its passenger vehicle sales, including EVs, in the domestic market at 45,199 units while Hyundai said dispatches to dealers in the domestic market stood at 44,374 units in April, a dip of 12%.

Kia India reported an 18% increase in domestic wholesales to 23,623 units.

Toyota Kirloskar Motor said its sales increased 33% to 27,324 units in April.

JSW MG Motor India said its sales increased 23% to 5,829 units in April.

In two-wheelers, TVS Motor Company reported a 7% on-year growth in sales to 3,23,647 units.

NMDC raises iron ore prices by ₹440/tonne

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

State-owned miner NMDC has raised iron ore prices by ₹440 per tonne effective May 1, 2025.

Baila Lump will cost ₹6,440 per tonne, while the same quantity of Baila Fines will come for ₹5,500, the company said, announcing the first price revision this fiscal. The prices were last revised on January 9 to ₹6,000 and ₹5,060 respectively.

These are FOR prices inclusive of royalty, DMF as well as NMET and exclusive of cess, forest permit fee, transit fee, GST, environmental cess and other taxes, India's largest iron ore producer said in a filing on Thursday.

Tata Starbucks CEO sees huge growth potential for cafe business in India

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Changing climatic conditions, the volatility they bring around and lack of consistency are some of the biggest challenges coffee-producing countries, including India, are facing today, said Sushant Dash, CEO, Tata Starbucks, a 50:50 joint venture between Seattle-headquartered Starbucks and Tata Consumer Products Ltd.

On the other hand, the coffee-consuming countries were increasingly becoming more demanding. They wanted transparency, traceability and sustainability aimed at ensuring right economic value for the commodity.

Sushant Dash

Commenting on growing coffee consumption in India, Mr. Dash said though India was a tea-drinking nation, now 20% to 25% of the population was drinking coffee. "So, coffee has huge potential in near term and long term," he added.

'Spiralling impact'

According to him, the cafe retailing market has been quite bullish in India and its growth outlook is very positive. An evolving coffee culture with the coexistence of organised cafe chains, standalone entrepreneurial coffee ventures and tiny coffee outlets in villages together were creating a spiralling impact and a coffee culture was getting created across the country, he observed.

"We are clearly seeing a spiralling impact and a fast-growing coffee culture across the country, including in small towns. We, Starbucks, are looking for category expansion, a huge growth of the cafe market," Mr. Dash further said, indicating that capturing market share was not the chain's primary focus.

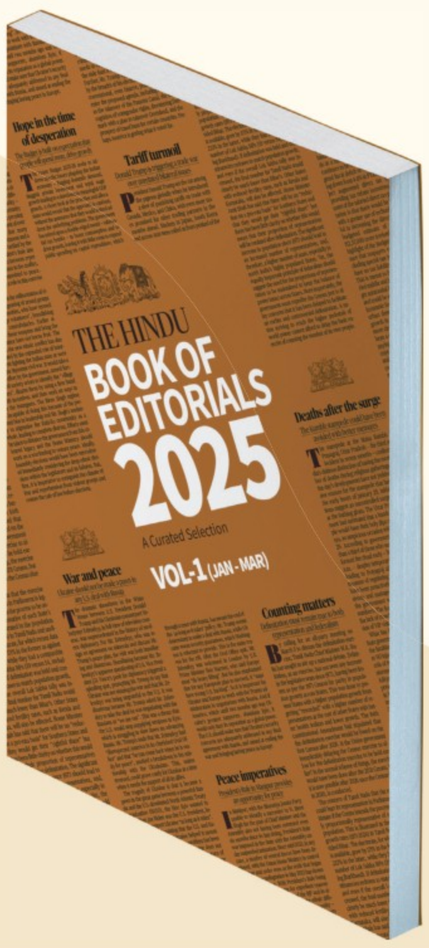
Buoyed by a rapidly growing cafe culture in metros and small towns across the country in the last two to three years, Starbucks has accelerated its store openings in India "We have 487 cafes in 80 cities. we will continue to expand wherever we think the need exists," Mr. Dash added.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM THE HINDU GROUP

THE HINDU
BOOK OF EDITORIALS
2025
VOL-1 (JAN - MAR)

LAUNCHING SHORTLY



The Hindu Book of Editorials captures recent happenings in a set format, with the editorials being grouped under different sectors and viewpoints.
The curated material is presented in calendrical progression, to provide a contextual review of the months that passed by.

This book, the first volume for 2025, presents editorials published from January to March 2025.

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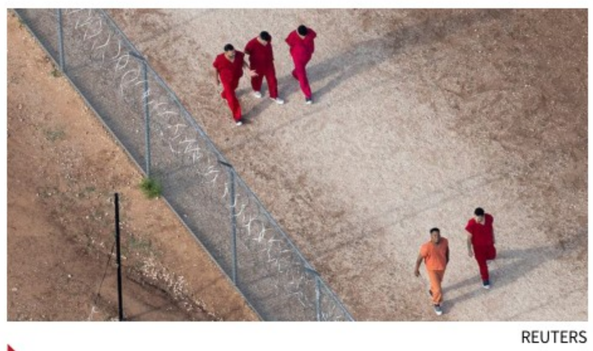
A BG-BGE

NEW YORK

Trump cannot use Alien Enemies Act to deport Venezuelans: judge



REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump's administration exceeded the scope of an 18th-century wartime law in using it to deport some Venezuelan migrants, a federal judge in Texas said on Thursday. He ruled that the gang's presence in the U.S. was not an "invasion" or "predatory incursion" as contemplated by the law. REUTERS

WASHINGTON

Trump praises Musk as business tycoon eyes exit to focus on Tesla

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump said on Wednesday that Tesla boss Elon Musk could stay working for the White House as long as he wanted but understood the tycoon wanted to get back to his businesses. Mr. Musk has seen his Tesla car company suffer significant brand damage from his political work. AFP

SAN FRANCISCO

Former Vice-President Harris says Trump's America is 'self-serving'

AFP

Former U.S. Vice-President Kamala Harris hit out at Donald Trump and his backers on Wednesday, in her first major speech since losing November's election. She told supporters the "chaos" of the last three months was the realisation of a plan by conservatives who are using Trump to twist the U.S. to their own advantage. AFP

BEIRUT

At least 101 killed in two days of sectarian clashes in Syria: monitor

AP

At least 101 people have been killed in two days of sectarian clashes in Syria, most of them Druze fighters, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Thursday. Meanwhile, Syrian Druze spiritual leader Sheikh Hikmat al-Hijri on Thursday condemned what he described as a "genocidal campaign" against his community. AFP

Trump removes Mike Waltz from the post of National Security Adviser

Secretary of State Marco Rubio will act as the interim security adviser; Trump, who said Waltz has worked hard to put the nation's interests first, nominates him to be the next U.S. envoy to the UN; Waltz's deputy, Alex Wong, also makes his exit

Reuters
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump ousted his national security adviser Mike Waltz on Thursday and named Secretary of State Marco Rubio as his interim replacement in the first major shakeup of Mr. Trump's inner circle since he took office in January.

Mr. Trump, in a social media post, said he would be nominating Mr. Waltz to be the next U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, adding that "he has worked hard to put our nation's interests first."

First strike: Mike Waltz's resignation is the first big shake-up of Donald Trump's inner circle since he took office in January. AFP

Earlier in the day, sources said Mr. Trump had decided to force Mr. Waltz out of his White House position.

Mr. Trump's selection of Mr. Rubio to replace Mr. Waltz temporarily will be the first time since Henry Kissinger in the 1970s that one person held both the positions of Secretary of State and National Security Adviser.

Mr. Waltz's deputy, Alex Wong, an Asia expert who was a State Department official focused on North Korea during Mr. Trump's first term, is also leaving his post, two people familiar with the matter told *Reuters*.

Leaking details

Mr. Waltz, a 51-year-old former Republican lawmaker from Florida, faced criticism inside the White House when he was caught up in a March scandal involving a Signal chat among top Trump national security aides.

A 51-year-old former Republican lawmaker from Florida, Mr. Waltz had been under pressure since the editor-in-chief of the *Atlantic* Magazine revealed in March that Mr. Waltz had mistakenly added him to a chat on the commercial messaging app Signal about attacks on Houthi rebels.

Officials on the chat laid out the attack plan including the timings that U.S. warplanes would take off to bomb targets in Yemen, with the first texts barely half an hour before they launched.

Nobody wants another centralised regime in Syria, says senior Kurdish leader

Stanly Johny

Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS), the jihadist group led by Abu Mohammed al-Jolani (also known as Ahmed al-Sharaa) that captured power in Syria in December, wants to establish a Salafi regime in Damascus, but the country's minorities are opposed to it, says Salih Muslim Muhammad, Syria's main Kurdish leader.

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Mr. Muslim, co-chairman of the Democratic Union Party (PYD) – the main party of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria – said the HTS was trying to establish another centralised regime in Damascus with a different ideology. "Nobody wants to go back to pre-2011 situation when Syria had a centralised regime. They are now looking for a decentralised government – it could be federalism or self-administered areas. The Alawites, Druze, the Kurdish people, and other minorities, everybody is looking for freedom," Mr. Muslim said via a video link from Qamishli in northeastern Syria.

Syria, despite the transition, is far from stable. "There have been a lot of

Salih Muslim Muhammad

struggles. The latest one was the massacres that happened in the coastal area in western Syria against the Alawites [the minority sect to which the deposed President Bashar al-Assad belonged to], because they don't like this regime", Mr. Muslim said, adding that, "We support them".

Asked about the status of the Islamic State in Syria, he said "there are ISIS-linked groups located in Idlib and areas occupied by Turkey [Turkiye]. By the name of ISIS, we still have some groups in our areas, in Deir ez-Zor, and especially in the western side of Euphrates. Now, after the regime fell, those groups got a lot of weapons. They are organising themselves again."

He said the Autonomous Administration works with the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition in northeastern Syria to fight against ISIS. "We are partners only for fighting against ISIS and terrorism, nothing more than that."

Ties with Israel

Asked if his administration has any ties with Israel, Mr. Muslim said, "the Kurdish people are natural allies of the Jewish people. They are part of the Middle East [West Asia]. And we have to live together."

He added that there were recent telephone conversations between the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Kurdish autonomous administration and the Foreign Minister of Israel. "If we make any relations, it's ordinary because several Arab countries have already established diplomatic relations with Israel."

What does he think about the Gaza war? "We think this is not the way to solve the problems. We believe for the Palestinian and Jewish people, a democratic nation" is the way forward. "A democratic nation for everybody, for different ethnicities and even different beliefs, where they can live together. They have to accept each other."

Ukraine drone strike kills 7 in Russia-held Kherson

Associated Press
KYIV

A Ukrainian drone attack left at least seven persons dead and a Russian strike on Odesa killed two persons on Thursday, officials said, just hours after Kyiv and Washington signed a long-anticipated agreement granting U.S. access to Ukraine's mineral resources – a move that could enable continued military aid to Ukraine.

The attack in the partially occupied Kherson region of southern Ukraine, which struck a market in the town of Oleshky, killed seven and wounded more than 20 people, Moscow-appointed Gov. Vladimir Saldo said.

No let-up: Russia says Ukraine's drones struck a market in the town of Oleshky, killing seven and wounding more than 20. REUTERS

"At the time of the attack, there were many people in the market," Mr. Saldo wrote on Telegram. After the first wave of strikes, he said, Ukraine sent further drones to "finish off" any survivors.

Russian drone strike

Meanwhile, a Russian drone strike on the Black Sea port city of Odesa early on Thursday killed two persons and injured 15 others, Ukrainian emergency services said.

Regional Gov. Oleh Kiper said the barrage struck apartment buildings, private homes, a supermarket and a school.

A drone struck and ignited a fire at a petrol station in the center of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest city, according to Mayor Ihor Terekhov.

The Ukrainian air force reported that Russia sent 170 exploding drones and decoys into five Ukrainian regions in the latest wave of attacks overnight into Thursday.

Following the attacks, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said that Russia had ignored a U.S. proposal for a full and unconditional ceasefire for more than 50 days.

Iran says next round of nuclear talks with U.S. is 'postponed'

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran said on Thursday that the next round of nuclear talks with the United States has been postponed, after mediator Oman cited "logistical reasons" for the delay.

Tehran and Washington were scheduled to meet for a fourth round of talks in Rome on Saturday, after reporting progress in three rounds since April 12.

"The next round of indirect Iran-U.S. talks, which were scheduled to be held in Rome on Saturday... has been postponed," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Esmaeil Baqaei said in a statement.

Oman's suggestion

He said the decision had been taken "based on the proposal of the Omani minister".

Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi cited "logistical reasons" for the delay.

"For logistical reasons, **Tehran and Washington were scheduled to meet for fourth round of talks on Saturday**

we are rescheduling the U.S.-Iran meeting provisionally planned for Saturday May 3. New dates will be announced when mutually agreed," he said.

U.S. position

A source familiar with the talks said the U.S. "never confirmed its participation" in the fourth round planned for Saturday.

The source added that rearranged talks were expected to "take place in the near future."

Ahead of the Tehran-Washington talks, Iranian diplomats had been due to meet in Rome on Friday with representatives of Britain, France and Germany.

It was not immediately clear if those talks would go ahead as scheduled.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
NANDANAM, CHENNAI - 35.

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ref No . 1486 /TNSDC C&AW /2025 DATED : 30.04.2025.

Tamil Nadu Skill Development Corporation anticipates the empanelment of the Assessment Agency in various sectors at various NSQF/NON NSQF levels which has sufficient relevant experience in Vocational Education and Training (VET).

The details of terms and conditions for the EoI can be downloaded from the website **www.tnskill.tn.gov.in** All other details are available in the above website. If there are any changes / corrections in the EoI, it will be published on the above website only.

Download of the EOI will be available starting from **02.05.2025.** The last date of submission of online application shall be **08.05.2025 upto 05.45 PM**

Managing Director
TAMILNADU SKILL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION,
Nandanam, Chennai - 35.

DIPR/1795/Tender/2025

KANCHEEPURAM CORPORATION
Infrastructure and Amenities (I&A) Scheme
CORPORATION OFFICE, KANCHEEPURAM

Roc.No.2810/2025/E1 **E-TENDER NOTICE** **Dated: 25.04.2025**

For and on-behalf of Kancheepuram Municipal Council, bids are invited by the Commissioner, Kancheepuram Corporation for I**nfrastructure and Amenities (I&A) Scheme** from the eligible contractors through Online.

		Estimate Amount (Rs. in Crores)	Tender Schedule Cost (Rs)	Earnest Money Deposit (Rs)	Eligible for Contract	Period
Name of work: Construction of New Bus Stand at Kancheepuram City Municipal Corporation		35.00	15600/-	35,00,000/-	Class 1	Two Years
1	Date and Time of Pre Bid Meeting	16.05.2025 @ 11.00 AM in Kancheepuram Corporation				
2	Last Date and Time for Downloading Tender Document	09.06.2025 (Monday) @ 3.00 pm http//tntenders.gov.in				
3	Last Date And Time for Submission of Tender Document (Two Cover System)	Online tenders should submit on or before 09.06.2025 upto 3.00 PM.				
4	Date of Opening of Technical Bid Document	09.06.2025 at 3.30 PM.				

Bidders who fulfill the eligibility criteria, as set out in the tender document are eligible to tender for this work.

DIPR / **1702** / Tender / 2025

Commissioner,
Kancheepuram Corporation

TAMILNADU MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Tamilnadu Undertaking)
No. 417, Pantheon Road, Chennai-600 008. Phone: 044-2819 1890, 2819 0259
Website: www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in E-Mail: gmdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in, mngrpurdrug.tnmsc@tn.gov.in

Online Tenders is invited by the Tender Inviting Authority, Tamilnadu Medical Services Corporation Ltd., Chennai – 600008, from the bidders meeting the eligibility criteria indicated in the tender document for the supply of **Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Kit** to TNMSC Ltd for two years from the date of acceptance of the tender.

Sl. No	Description	e-Tender Reference	Tender Floating Period	e-Tender Submission Duration	Date and time of online opening of Technical Bids
1.	Online Tender for the supply of **Maternal and Child Health Nutrition Kit** to TNMSC Limited under rate contract system for two years from the date of acceptance	e-008/M(P)/MCHN-KIT/TNMSC/2025, Dated. 02.05.2025	02.05.2025 at 5.00 PM to 02.06.2025 upto 11.00 AM	16.05.2025 at 10.00 AM to 02.06.2025 upto 11.00 AM	02.06.2025 at 12.00 Noon

The tender document can be downloaded and the tender shall be submitted at **https://tntenders.gov.in/.** The tender document can also be downloaded at **www.tnmsc.tn.gov.in** for reference purpose.

DIPR/1735/TENDER/2025

Tender Inviting Authority / General Manager (Drugs)

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP Portal)

BWSSB invites tenders in Two Stage System from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Amount put to tender / EMD
Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-1/DCE(M)-1/TA(S)/375/2025-26		**Date: 28.04.2025**
1.	Work of providing and laying of 200mm dia DI Pipeline for filling lakes with treated water from Splended lake Breeze Apartments Private STP to Begur lake coming under Begur Service Station of AEES-2-2 Sub-division. CALL-5.	Rs. 104.23 Lakhs / Rs. 1.56 Lakhs

The last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **16.05.2025 upto 15:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **17.05.2025 after 17:00Hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(South).

Office of the Chief Engineer (Project), 3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560 009.		
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(P)/ACE(P)-1,2/TA/141/2025-26		**Date: 29.04.2025**
1.	Procurement, Construction and Commissioning of Rising Main, main sewers and laterals including machineholes for Byatarayanapura Zone (Item Rate) in 110 village areas (Phase II) under Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Program (KWSDRP)-(Contract Package No. BWSSB CE-P/KWSDRP/WBS-II-B).	Rs. 174.45 Crores / Rs. 1.75 Crores
2.	Design, Engineering, Construction and Commissioning of Waste water Treatment Plants with Tertiary Treatment Facility, Biogas Generation & Solar Sludge Drying Bed and Intermediate Sewage Pumping Station along with Operation & Maintenance Thereof for Ten years [Works-A] and Procurement & Construction of Rising Main, main Sewers and laterals including machineholes and Lift Sewage Pumping Stations [Works-B] Hybrid Mode for Bommanahalli Zone in 110 village areas (Phase II) under Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Program (KWSDRP)-(Contract Package No. BWSSB CE-P/KWSDRP/WBS-III).	Rs. 362.42 Crores / Rs. 3.62 Crores
3.	Design, Engineering, Construction and Commissioning of Waste water Treatment Plants with Tertiary Treatment Facility and Intermediate Sewage Pumping Station along with Operation & Maintenance Thereof for ten years [Works - A] and Procurement & Construction of Rising Main, main Sewers and Laterals including machineholes and Lift Sewage Pumping Stations [Works- B] Hybrid Mode for Bommanahalli Zone in 110 village areas (Phase II) under Karnataka Water Security and Disaster Resilience Program (KWSDRP)-(Contract Package No. BWSSB CE-P/KWSDRP/WBS-IV).	Rs. 179.13 Crores / Rs. 1.80 Crores

The last date for submission of completed tender documents is on: **31.05.2025 upto 16:00Hrs.** The Tenders will be opened on: **02.06.2025 after 16:00Hrs**.

Sd/- Chief Engineer(Project).

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/RA/424/2025-26

UNFORTUNATE

Maxwell, Sandeep suffer finger fracture, to miss rest of season

K. MURALI KUMAR

Punjab Kings' all-rounder Glenn Maxwell was on Thursday ruled out of the remainder of the IPL after fracturing his finger. Maxwell suffered the injury before PBKS' rained out game against KKR. Rajasthan Royals' seamer Sandeep Sharma was on Thursday ruled out of the rest of the tournament owing to a fracture to his finger.

PENALISED

Shreyas fined for maintaining slow over-rate in PBKS' win over CSK

M. VEDHAN

Punjab Kings captain Shreyas Iyer has been fined ₹12 lakh for maintaining a slow-over rate during his team's win over CSK on Wednesday. "As this was his team's first offence of the season under Article 2.22 of Code of Conduct, which pertains to minimum over-rate offences, Shreyas was fined ₹12 lakh," an IPL advisory said.

INJURY UPDATE

Reasonably confident captain Gill is going to be okay: GT's Solanki

VIJAY SONEJI

Gujarat Titans Director of Cricket Vikram Solanki gave an update on captain Shubman Gill's fitness. "There was a bit of a back spasm. Just trying to be careful with it. He'll be at training today (Thursday). We'll just see where he's at, but we're reasonably confident he's going to be okay".

STEPPING IN

Vignesh out of remainder of IPL; Mumbai Indians ropes in Raghu

MI

Mumbai Indians on Thursday roped in leg-spinner Raghu Sharma as a replacement for injured Vignesh Puthur for the remainder of the IPL season. The Kerala left-arm spinner has been ruled out due to bone stress reactions in both shins. The 31-year-old Raghu, who was part of MI's support bowling unit, now joins the main squad.

Powerplay: Rickelton and Rohit came up with a flurry of big hits. R.V. MOORTHY

Mumbai goes to the top after a Royal rout

Rohit and Rickelton roar at the top before Suryakumar and Hardik's knocks prove an icing on the cake; Suryavanshi falls for a duck

IPL-18

Tarun Shastry
JAIPUR

Amidst a sea of pink, it was all blue as Mumbai Indians thrashed a hapless Rajasthan Royals by 100 runs and stormed to the top of the IPL points table after their clash at the Sawai Mansingh Stadium here on Thursday.

In response to MI's 217 for two, Royals were jolted early when teen sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi, the record-breaker in the previous game, was dismissed for a duck in the first over.

Yashasvi Jaiswal showed aggression, launching two sixes off Trent Boult, but his cameo ended when he was castled in the same over. Nitish Rana fell soon after, mistiming a short ball from Boult.

The introduction of Jasprit Bumrah in the fifth over dented Royals further.

The pacer struck twice off two deliveries, removing Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer, as the hosts slumped to 47 for five inside the PowerPlay.

Hardik Pandya dismissed Shubham Dubey off his first delivery with a well-directed short ball.

Mumbai's Impact Player Karn Sharma delivered more blows, removing Dhruv Jurel, Maheesh Theekshana and Kumar Kartikeya in quick succession.

Wrapping it up

Boult returned to wrap things up, dismissing Jofra Archer as Royals were bowled out for 117 to seal a 100-run win for MI.

Earlier, Mumbai Indians' innings began on a cautious note before Ryan Rickelton broke free, hitting Fazalhaq Farooqi for a six and a boundary.

Rohit Sharma joined the act in the fifth over as the pair plundered 18 runs to shift the momentum in Mumbai's favour.

The duo expertly pierced the field, particularly targeting left-arm spinner Kartikeya.

Cruising along

Rohit struck two boundaries, while Rickelton brought up a stylish half-century with a massive six over midwicket. By the halfway stage, Mumbai had cruised to 116 without loss, completely in control.

The opening partnership was eventually broken against the run of play when Rickelton was bowled by Theekshana. Suryakumar Yadav and Hardik continued where the openers left off, wading into Farooqi and smashed three boundaries.

In the 18th over, Hardik took on Farooqi, hammering 21 runs with three boundaries and a massive six over backward-point. Suryakumar finished the innings with a six over long-on.

Royals never recovered from the hammering.

SCOREBOARD

MUMBAI INDIANS
Ryan Rickelton b Theekshana 61 *(38b, 7x4, 3x6)*, Rohit Sharma c Jaiswal b Parag 53 *(36b, 9x4)*, Suryakumar Yadav (not out) 48 *(23b, 4x4, 3x6)*, Hardik Pandya (not out) 48 *(23b, 6x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-1, w-6): 7; Total (for two wkts. in 20 overs): 217.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-116 (Rickelton, 11.5 overs), 2-123 (Rohit, 12.4).

ROYALS BOWLING
Archer 4-0-42-0, Farooqi 4-0-54-0, Theekshana 4-0-47-1, Kartikeya 2-0-22-0, Madhwal 4-0-39-0, Parag 2-0-12-1.

RAJASTHAN ROYALS
Yashasvi Jaiswal b Boult 13 *(6b, 2x6)*, Vaibhav Suryavanshi c Jacks b Chahar 0 *(2b)*, Nitish Rana c Tilak b Boult 9 *(11b, 2x4)*, Riyan Parag c Rohit b Bumrah 16 *(8b, 3x4)*, Dhruv Jurel c & b Karn 11 *(11b, 1x6)*, Shimron Hetmyer c Suryakumar b Bumrah 0 *(1b)*, Shubham Dubey **(Impact Player for Farooqi)** c Boult b Hardik 15 *(9b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Jofra Archer c Bumrah b Boult 30 *(27b, 2x4, 2x6)*, Maheesh Theekshana c Suryakumar b Karn 2 *(9b)*, Kumar Kartikeya c Chahar b Karn 2 *(4b)*, Akash Madhwal (not out) 4 *(9b)*; Extras (lb-7, w-8): 15; Total (in 16.1 overs): 117.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-1 (Suryavanshi, 0.4), 2-18 (Jaiswal, 1.4), 3-41 (Nitish, 3.6), 4-47 (Parag, 4.4), 5-47 (Hetmyer, 4.5), 6-64 (Dubey, 7.1), 7-76 (Jurel, 8.6), 8-87 (Theekshana, 11.1), 9-91 (Kartikeya, 11.5).

MUMBAI INDIANS BOWLING
Chahar 2-0-13-1, Boult 2.1-0-28-3, Bumrah 4-0-15-2, Bosch 3-0-29-0, Hardik 1-0-2-1, Karn (Impact Player for Rohit) 4-0-23-3.

Toss: Royals; **PoM:** Rickelton.
MI won by 100 runs.

Points table

	M	W	L	NR	PTS	NRR
Mumbai Indians	11	7	4	0	14	1.274
Royal Challengers	10	7	3	0	14	0.521
Punjab Kings	10	6	3	1	13	0.199
Gujarat Titans	9	6	3	0	12	0.748
Delhi Capitals	10	6	4	0	12	0.362
Lucknow Super Giants	10	5	5	0	10	-0.325
Kolkata Knight Riders	10	4	5	1	9	0.271
Rajasthan Royals (E)	11	3	8	0	6	-0.780
Sunrisers Hyderabad	9	3	6	0	6	-1.103
Chennai Super Kings (E)	10	2	8	0	4	-1.211

E: Eliminated ** Till the RR-MI match on May 1*

Hitman's feat
Rohit became the first batter to score 6000 runs for MI

Next assignment

RR: May 4 vs KKR
Kolkata, 3.30 p.m.

MI: May 6 vs GT
Mumbai, 7.30 p.m.

Titans aim to recover from Suryavanshi blitz

S. Prasanna Venkatesan
AHMEDABAD

Today's match

GUJARAT TITANS vs SUNRISERS

Ahmedabad, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 5
GT 4 | SRH 1

PREVIOUS MEETING
GT won by seven wickets, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

One singular feat explains what Gujarat Titans has been doing so efficiently in its batting in the ongoing IPL season. Its batting average in the first ten overs this season - an astounding 92.44 - is the best in the tournment's history!

With GT being set up for the bulk of its runs to come from its top three batters, its openers - Shubman Gill (389 runs) and B. Sai Sudharsan (456) - have been great with wicket retention. While GT has lost the fewest wickets (six) of all the teams in the PowerPlay, it has also managed to score at 9.31 runs per over. Never have both openers, and only once has Sai Sudharsan, been dismissed in the PowerPlay.

This enables GT to double down on the scoring rate in the middle (7-16) and death (16-20) overs. It has the best run rate in both phases - 9.98 and 12.33. And it has lost the fewest wickets (14) of all the teams in the middle overs too.

So, when Sunrisers Hyderabad takes on GT at the Narendra Modi stadium here on Friday, it should simply look to get GT's openers and Jos Buttler (406 runs) early. It's doubtful, though, whether the SRH bowling attack is able.

The only positive for SRH is that it comes off a win and a six-day gap while GT was battered by Vaibhav Suryavanshi in Jaipur.

Aussie connection: SRH's Cummins and Head catch up with GT's assistant coach Wade ahead of Friday's IPL match. VIJAY SONEJI

Archaic Super Kings need to reinvent, take tough calls

S. Dipak Ragav
CHENNAI

When a team sets a high bar, there is an unshakable trust in the blueprint as it has worked time and time again.

However, there comes a phase when the rivals catch up and the much-celebrated champion finds itself stuck in the past.

For Chennai Super Kings, that moment has arrived as it failed to progress to the IPL playoffs for the second consecutive year.

The four-wicket defeat to Punjab Kings on Wednesday was the nadir for the five-time champion, which slumped to its eighth reverse in 10 games and crashed out of the tournament well before the end of the league stage.

The Kings loss was Super Kings' fifth successive one at home (MAC Stadium), where it hardly used to face setbacks.

The abysmal performance can be traced back to the auction when the think-tank failed to assemble a batting unit that was in tune with the demands of modern-day T20 cricket, where the ability to tee off from the get-go is paramount.

The pattern of defeats was almost painfully identical; the top-order failed to maximise the PowerPlay while setting or chasing a total, leaving the rest to play catch-up.

That the Yellow Brigade hit only six maximums in the PowerPlay in 2025 – young Vaibhav Suryavanshi managed it in just one innings in the first six overs against Gujarat Titans – reflected how sluggish the starts were.

CSK has often extracted the best out of players who might not have done well at other franchises.

The strong belief in that philosophy probably dictated its strategy to pick an Indian batting core.

Unfortunately, the decision to pin hopes on Rahul Tripathi, Vijay Shankar, and Deepak Hooda backfired.

The lack of form from its overseas batting options, Rachin Ravindra and Devon Conway, and the waning powers of Ravindra Jadeja and M.S. Dhoni made it a perfect storm. Ruturaj Gaikwad and Dhoni's captaincy looked rigid and predictable.

The management's reluctance to back youth, unlike other teams, showed the archaic mindset.

Only when pushed to a corner did they try out youngsters like Shaik Rasheed, Ayush Mhatre, and Dewald Brevis – the last two being injury replacements.

Disastrous

A rich legacy and glittering cabinet are all fine but not reading the evolving landscape is proving disastrous. There needs to be soul-searching and tough calls if Super Kings want to prevent their recent slump turning into a prolonged rut.

Muddled season: CSK's pattern of defeats was almost painfully identical. SPORTZPICS/IPL

Gill-Sai Sudharsan combo: cool, calm and consistent

Akanksha Chakraborty

When Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan walk out, casually practising their strokes, their every movement speaks volumes about their calmness and confidence. They go about winning hearts in the stands and planting quiet fear in the minds of their rivals without a ball bowled.

It's not easy to remain unflappable in the middle when the packed stands are bursting with excitement. But it is only in the stillness of a peaceful mind that the true calling of greatness finds its voice.

This spirit is perfectly embodied by the Gujarat Titans' opening pair, who marry skill with the kind of composure that almost effortlessly turns pressure into power.

A masterstroke

In the IPL last year, Titans decided to pair Sai Sudharsan with Gill when Wriddhiman Saha was unavailable, a move that, in hindsight, looks like a masterstroke.

They notched up 50-plus runs in all three innings they played together in 2024.

It's not just their brilliance but their consistency that has brought a sense of comfort to the hearts of the GT fans.

On May 10, 2024, when the Titans fortress shimmered with hints of yellow, Gill and Sai Sudharsan joined hands to script one of the finest partnerships in IPL history - a 210-run stand against Chennai Super Kings that left both teammates and opponents in awe.

The two have carried forward that winning mindset this season. They have fallen inside the first 10 overs only once and become the first opening pair to cross the 500-run mark in IPL 2025.

In an era dominated by power-hitters, Gill and Sai Sudharsan have carved their own space with elegance, patience, and consistency.

Their alliance isn't just about runs – it's about trust, rhythm, and quiet dominance.

They might just be Titans' strongest hope for another title run.

The pillars: Sai Sudharsan and Gill will be Titans' strongest hope for another title run. FILE PHOTO: SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Shreyas more mature now: coach Ponting

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Shreyas Iyer is confidence personified. He is leading Punjab Kings well and that is reflected in his batting too.

The stylish right-hander, who scored a half-century in PBKS' four-wicket win over Chennai Super Kings in an IPL match here on Wednesday, earned praise from coach Ricky Ponting. The former Australia captain hailed Shreyas' evolution as a leader, saying that his understanding of game situations is better than ever before.

Reunited

The duo has been reunited this season at Punjab Kings after having worked together at Delhi Capitals, where they had led DC to the playoffs from 2019 to 2021, including a final appearance in 2020.

"He's a lot more confident in himself now than he was, and that comes with experience," Ponting said. "He's a more mature player now. I think he understands the game and game situations probably better than ever before," the PBKS coach said of Shreyas, who has made 360 runs in 10 games.

Shreyas led Kolkata Knight Riders to the IPL title last season but was released before the mega auction.

Shreyas... no looking back. M. VEDHAN

Trust

"I mean, he won the IPL last year as a captain. So, when you've done that and you've got that experience behind you and you believe and trust in your own instincts, I think that's the biggest thing with captaincy, especially in a T20 game when everything around you is happening so fast," Ponting said.

INBRIEF

Sports Minister presents Khel Ratna to Satwik-Chirag

Sports Minister Mansukh Mandaviya presented the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna award to badminton stars Chirag Shetty and Satwiksairaj Rankireddy in New Delhi on Thursday, completing a long-pending felicitation of the celebrated duo.

Harsabardhan, Jyoshna clinch medals in youth weightlifting

Harsabardhan Sahu (youth men's 49kg) and Jyoshna Sabar (youth women's 40kg), both hailing from Odisha, claimed overall bronze medals on the opening day of the World youth and junior weightlifting championships in Lima, Peru. In individual segments, Harsabardhan collected two more bronze medals for his efforts of 87kg in snatch and 110kg in clean and jerk. He totalled 197kg. Jyoshna lifted 56kg in snatch and 72kg in clean and jerk for an aggregate of 128kg. Her clean and jerk mark also earned her a silver.

Indian women's hockey team loses to Australia again

The Indian women's hockey team fought hard before going down 0-2 to Australia in the third game of its tour Down Under tour in Perth on Thursday. Courtney Schonell (ninth minute) opened the scoring for the host before Grace Stewart (52nd) added a second. The visitor had earlier lost 3-5 and 2-3 to Australia-A. This match was India's first outing against the main Australian team.

Lopetegui appointed head coach of Qatar national team

Julen Lopetegui, who was sacked by Premier League side West Ham in January, was appointed the new head coach of Qatar on Thursday. "Ready for a new chapter. Welcome Lopetegui. We're excited to embark on this journey together," the Qatar Football Federation wrote on social media. "I'm ready", the Spaniard said in a video accompanying the post on *X*.

Lakra and Uttam join men's hockey team core group

Two new players in defender Pratap Lakra from Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh's Uttam Singh were on Thursday added to already existing 38-member core group for the ongoing senior men's National camp in Bengaluru.

The core group: Goalkeepers: Krishan Bahadur Pathak, Suraj Karkera, Pawan, M.H. Shashikumar; **Defenders:** Amit Rohidas, Varun Kumar, Jugraj Singh, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Amandeep Lakra, Harmanpreet Singh, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Yashdeep Siwach, Mohd. Raheel Mouseen, Pratap Lakra. **Midfielders:** Raj Kumar Pal, Nilakanta Sharma, Hardik Singh, Sumit, Moirangthem Rabichandra Singh, Poovanna Chandura Boby, Rajinder Singh, Vishnu Kant Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Shamsher Singh. **Forwards:** Gurjant Singh, Abhishek, Shilanand Lakra, Aditya Arjun Lalage, Boby Singh Dhami, Selvam Karthi, Sunil Jojo, Mandeep Singh, Lalit Kumar Upadhyay, Dilpreet Singh, Sukhjeet Singh, Sudeep Chirmako, Angad Bir Singh, Uttam Singh.

Leverkusen snaps up teenager Maza from Hertha

Bayer Leverkusen has snapped up teenager Ibrahim Maza from second-division club Hertha Berlin in its first signing for next season. The 19-year-old midfielder signed a contract through June 2030, the 2024 Bundesliga champion said.

LIVE TELECAST

Women ODI tri-series: Sri Lanka vs South Africa, FanCode, 10 a.m.

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12 a.m. (Saturday)

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Formula One: Miami GP (Sprint Shootout), F1 TV, F1 TV Pro & FanCode, 2 a.m. (Saturday)

Barcelona fights back to hold Inter Milan in a riveting six-goal thriller at home

Italian side races into early lead before a brilliant Yamal inspires the Spanish team to stay afloat; Dumfries stars for the former with a couple of goals

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Reuters
BARCELONA

Barcelona twice battled back to draw 3-3 at home against Inter Milan in a rip-roaring first leg of their Champions League semifinal at Montjuic Olympic Stadium on Wednesday.

In a riveting encounter, Inter were clinical with their finishing and withstood Barcelona's relentless attack while capitalising on counter-attacks and set-pieces.

Goalkeeper Yann Sommer was instrumental in securing the draw for Inter with a series of impressive saves.

Spectacular: Dumfries finds the net with an acrobatic volley off a corner to put Inter 2-0 ahead. AP

Explosive start

Inter made an explosive start, opening the scoring within the first minute courtesy of a cheeky backheel goal from Marcus Thuram.

The visitors extended their lead in the 21st minute with Denzel Dumfries finding the net with an acrobatic volley from a corner.

However, an electrifying Lamine Yamal led Barcelona's fightback, unleashing a superb strike from inside the box after a clever run from the right to reduce the deficit three minutes after Inter's second goal.

Yamal went close again, hitting the post from close range before Ferran Torres levelled the score in the 38th minute with a first-time finish.

Despite Barcelona's dominance, it was Inter which regained the lead in the 64th minute when Dumfries headed home from a corner.

The hosts responded immediately, as Raphinha's thunderous strike from outside the box hit the woodwork before ricocheting off the back of Sommer and into the net to restore parity.

Yamal was seemingly unstoppable and twice hit the frame of the goal, including with a late chip following a brilliant run, while Henrikh Mkhitaryan thought he had scored Inter's fourth on another quick counter, but the VAR replay showed he was offside by the tip of his boot.

Everything to play for

The result leaves everything to play for in the return leg at the San Siro next Tuesday, as both teams seek a place in the final in Munich against either Arsenal or Paris St Germain.

However, Inter skipper Lautaro Martínez had to be substituted at half-time after he was seen hobbling is unlikely to recover in time for the return leg.

The results (semifinal, first leg):
Barcelona 3 (Yamal 24, Torres 38, Sommer 65-og) drew with Inter Milan 3 (Thuram 1, Dumfries 21, 63).

Bopanna-Shelton duo edged out in last 16

Sports Bureau

Rohan Bopanna and Ben Shelton of USA were beaten 6-4, 6-7(5), [11-9] by Maximo Gonzalez and Andres Molteni of Argentina in the pre-quarterfinals of the €8,055,385 ATP tennis tournament in Madrid.

Other results: €227,270 Challenger, Aix-en-Provence, France: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Sriram Balaji & Miguel Reyes-Varela (Mex) bt Maxxime Chazal & Laurent Lokoli (Fra) 6-4, 6-3.

€227,270 Challenger, Estoril, Portugal: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Nicolas Barrientos (Col) & Rithvik Bollipalli bt Marcelo Demoliner (Bra) & Gregoire Jacq (Fra) 3-6, 7-6(4), [10-3].

$100,000 Challenger, Guangzhou, China: Doubles (quarterfinals): Ray Ho (Tpe) & Matthew Romios (Aus) bt Ramkumar Ramanathan & Fajing Sun (Chn) 5-7, 6-4, [10-4].

$15,000 ITF men, Shymkent, Kazakhstan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Sergey Fomin (Uzb) bt Bharath Kumaran 3-0 (retired).

$40,000 ITF women, Lopota, Georgia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Evialina Laskevich bt Ankita Raina 4-6, 6-1, 7-6(4).

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Rutuja Bhosale & Paige Hourigan (Nzl) bt Iveta Dapkute (Ltu) & Darja Suvirdjonkova (Srb) 6-3, 6-7(5), [10-4].
Shrivalli Bhamidipaty & Alexandra Shubladze bt Kira Pavlova & Ksenia Zaytseva 3-6, 6-3, [10-8].

$40,000 ITF women, Yecla, Spain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Elena Giessler (Ger) & Madhurima Sawant bt Laura Ruiz & Alba Gonzalez (Esp) 6-0, 6-3.

$30,000 ITF women, Boca Raton, USA: Singles (first round): Riya Bhatia bt Berta Bonardi (Arg) 7-5, 6-0.

Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Riya Bhatia & Jessica Gomez (Mex) bt Sofia Dominguez (Ven) & Kianah Motosono (USA) 6-4, 6-2.

$15,000 ITF women, Shymkent, Kazakhstan: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Valeriya Yushchenko bt Sonal Patil 6-2, 6-0.

Doubles (quarterfinals): Pooja Ingale & Akanksha Nitture bt Vladislava Andreevskaya (Kgz) & Erika Bosaia 7-5, 6-7(2), [10-5].

Consistent Fedoseev claims title; Praggnanandhaa finishes third

CHESS

Press Trust of India
WARSAW

Indian Grandmaster R. Praggnanandhaa finished third while Slovenia's Vladimir Fedoseev expectedly won the Superbet Rapid and Blitz tournament, an event on the Grand Chess Tour.

Indian GM Aravindh Chithambaram did not see any change in his fortunes in the blitz section and had to be content with a tie for seventh place in his maiden outing in the GCT.

Fedoseev, who enjoyed a big 3.5 points lead coming into the final day, scored a massive 7.5/9 points in the blitz section and pocketed the winner's purse of $40,000.

His overall score was 26.5 points out of a possible 36.

A distant second was Maxime Vachier-Lagrave of France, who ended five points behind on 21.5, followed by Praggnanandhaa (20.5).

Stunning show: Fedoseev pocketed the winner's purse of $40,000. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

In the overall standings of the GCT, Vachier-Lagrave leads ahead of Praggnanandhaa, while wild card Fedoseev will have to wait for his turn to become a permanent invitee to the tour.

Vachier-Lagrave won $30,000 while Praggnanandhaa got richer by $25,000 from the event.

Praggnanandhaa once again saw a reversal in fortunes in the second half of the day and finished with a flourish. Scoring just one point from the first five games, the Indian came back strongly to beat Duda Jan-Kryzsztof, Veselin Topalov, Aravindh and David Gavrilescu to finish the first event on a high. He scored five points out of a possible nine on the final day.

Fedoseev did not stop in his quest to win the maiden title in GCT and scored as many as seven victories on the final day.

His lone loss came against Duda which was also his only loss in the entire tournament spanning a total 27 games - nine in rapid and 18 in blitz.

The GCT will now move to Bucharest for the first Classical event (starting from May 7) that will see all the nine permanent tour players joining with a lone wild card. From India, world champion D. Gukesh will be seen in action once again along with Praggnanandhaa.

Final standings: 1. Vladimir Fedoseev (Slo) 26.5; 2. Maxime Vachier-Lagrave (Fra) 21.5; 3. R. Praggnanandhaa (Ind) 20.5; 4: Levon Aronian (Usa) 20; 5. Firouzja Alireza (Fra) 18.5; 6. Deac Bogdan-Daniel (Rou) 18; 7-8: Duda Jan-Kryzsztof (Pol), Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind) 17 each. 9. David Gavrilescu (Rou) 11; 10. Veselin Topalov (Bul) 9.

Munoz is best player of I-League 2024-25

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prolific striker David Castaneda Munoz of Sreenidi Deccan FC was on Thursday named the best player of the I-League season 2024-25.

The awards: I-League 2024-25: Best player: David Castaneda Munoz (Sreenidi Deccan); **highest scorer:** Munoz (17 goals); **Syed Abdul Rahim Award for best coach:** Dimitris Dimitriou (Churchill); **best midfielder:** Pape Gassama (Churchill); **Jarnail Singh Award for best defender:** Daniel Gonçalves (Shillong Lajong); **best goalkeeper:** Jaspreet Singh (Namdhari); **best emerging player:** Hridaya Jain (Delhi); **Fair Play:** Dempo; **best match organisation:** Gokulam Kerala. **IWL 2024-25: Best striker:** Fazila Ikwaput (24 goals, Gokulam Kerala); **best goalkeeper:** Elangbam Panthoi Chanu (East Bengal); **best defender:** Purnima Kumari (Sethu); **best midfielder:** Hemam Shilky Devi (Gokulam Kerala); **best match organisation:** Gokulam Kerala.

Consolation win for Indian shuttlers

Press Trust of India
XIAMEN (CHINA)

India defeated England 3-2 in its final Group-D match to register a consolation win at the BWF Sudirman Cup Finals on Thursday.

World No. 44 Anupama Upadhyaya hardly broke a sweat to get the better of lower-ranked Miu Lin Ngan 21-12, 21-16 in a women's singles match that lasted 41 minutes. Satish Kumar Karunakaran then had to toil hard for one hour and 13 minutes to get past Harry Huang 18-21, 22-20, 21-13 to hand India a 2-0 lead.

The women's doubles pair of Tanisha Crasto and Shruti Mishra took just 42 minutes to beat Lizzie Tolman and Estelle Van Leeuwen 21-17, 21-17 to secure the contest for India.

The Indians, however, lost the last two matches. In a men's doubles match, A. Hariharan and R. Ruban Kumar went down to Rory Easton and Alex Green 14-21, 21-11, 13-21 and the mixed doubles pair of Karunakaran and Tanisha were beaten by Callum Hemming and Leeuwen 21-11, 13-21, 22-24.

India finishes second

Press Trust of India
AMMAN

Indian boxers wrapped up their campaign at the Asian under-15 & u-17 championships by adding four gold medals on the final day to finish second. India's tally included 15 gold, six silver, and 22 bronze, behind Kazakhstan. Khushi Chand (46kg) beat Altanzul Altangadas 3-2 while Ahaana Sharma (50 kg) and Jannat (54kg) delivered 5-0 victories. The final gold came through Anshika (80+ kg).

In u-17 section, Devansh (80kg) won silver after a 0-5 loss to Kazakhstan's Mukhamedali Rustembek. Simranjeet Kaur (60kg) and Harsika (63kg) added two more silvers.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Atharva.

Atharva shines in South Asian Youth TT

Karnataka table tennis player Atharva Nawarange came back with a rich haul of three gold medals and one bronze from the South Asian Youth Championship in Kathmandu recently. Atharva, who was the captain of the Indian u-15 boys' team, helped his nation defeat Nepal 3-1 in the team event to bag gold, won the mixed doubles top prize in the company of Prateeti Paul, the doubles gold with Vishruth Ramakrishnan and boys' singles bronze.

Yelahanka downs Jogo Bonito Soccers

Yelahanka FC crushed Jogo Bonito Soccers 4-0 in the KSFA C-division football league on Thursday.

Other results: Yelahanka FC bt Jogo Bonito Soccers 4-0; Alchemy IFA bt Karnataka United 5-0; RT Nagar Hebbal FC bt Samant Sports Academy 1-0; Play 365 FC bt Victoria FC Bangalore 1-0.

Vivek and Tenzin on goal-scoring spree

Vivek Singh and Tenzin Woeser scored hat-tricks as Blitz FC defeated Young Challengers FC 9-4 in the BDFA A-division football league championship on Thursday.

The results: Snipers FS (KSFA) 8 (Abhil Thanangattil 17, 33, K. Subhesh 38, 53, 56, 58, V.P. Shahil 67, 83) bt RWF FC 2 (S. Rajesh 20, 59); Blitz FC 9 (Vivek Singh 2, 61, 70, 81, Arya Shetty 13, Tenzin Woeser 24, 44, 85, B.H. Pravaruth 62) bt Young Challengers FC 4 (G. Raju 7, 12, 65, 90+1).

Vishnu stars for GST & Customs

Vishnu top-scored with 23 points as GST & Customs defeated Koramangala SC in the State B-division basketball league championship on Thursday.

The results: GST & Customs 75 (Vishnu 23, Prem 17) bt Koramangala SC 64 (Priyanshu 19, Shivam 12); IBBC 73 (Karan 23, Suresh 18) bt Rajmahal BC 70 (Anand 22, Shishir 20).

Bangalore Sporting 73 (Ayush Devaiah 16, Narasimhan 14) bt Devanga Union 62 (Nipun 14).

Mandya District 75 (Shashank Gowda 26, Amartya 20) bt YMMA 63 (Prabhat Tomar 22, Prashanth Tomar 16).